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Intimation.



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LIMITED,

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.
Hongkong, 30th November, 1907.

BIRTH.

On December 20, 1907, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. C. L. SEITZ, a son, Clayton Leonard.

MARRIAGES.

On December 20, 1907, at Shanghai, WILLIAM DAINY, of Colombo, son of William Dainy, of Westgate, Essex, to DAVEY KATZ, second daughter of the late Robert Law, Shanghai.

On December 21, 1907, at Shanghai, ANDREAS HANSEN, ERIKSE, to EDITH MARY, only daughter of the late William Fowler, of Shanghai. No cards.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1907.

UNDER MATRIMONIAL COLOURS.

While the majority of people are quite content to make their own friendships and to break with undesirable acquaintances when circumstances seem to warrant such a step, there appears to be an enormous number of staid, gloomy, morose Englishmen and women who find it impossible to gratify their real affection for humanity. Gifted with a gregarious nature, they are yet compelled to stand aside while the flighty little miss and the harum-scarum youth, without brains, depth, or character are welcomed as fresh draughts of ozone. And so the great-hearted ones, cursed with shyness, or hampered by an unfortunate tongue and a vile purse-proud manner, walk along in the shadows, eating their hearts out in vain regrets. Many astute adventurers long since realised the possibilities of such a condition of things, and the matrimonial agency was the direct outcome of the idea to make the human "pariahs" pay for a chance of doubtful bliss. But the matrimonial agency got into bad odour, somehow or another. It was discovered that the rich heiress, the languishing school girl with £10,000 a year in her own right when she reached the age of 18, the lonesome widow who wanted a gentleman and a husband to look after her huge estates, the domesticated creature who wanted sympathy, the sporting lady who wanted a male affinity to accompany her on a big game hunt while she paid all expenses, all these types were embodied in the young and dashing, sedate and respectable, accomplished and domesticated female who acted as a sort of sister to the proprietor of the matrimonial agency. All the proprietor had to do was to introduce the parties, charge the stranger whatever sum he seemed able to afford, and confidently leave the result to the stern common sense of his lady assistant. And so the matrimonial agency, that is to say the bourgeois, wedded-while-you-wait affair, died a natural death. The aristocratic go-between is still making a livelihood out of the introduction business. After all, however, the lonely spinster and the man who hoped to make a fortune by marrying money felt that the disappearance of the matrimonial agent was not altogether

an unmitigated blessing, and after a time we had reading clubs, circular correspondence letters, and what not, formed all over the country. The late Sir Isaac Pitman recognised the value of these media for spreading a knowledge of phonography among the people, and like the shrewd man he was, these clubs and societies were caught under his wing and he obtained an endless chain of advertisements of the most practical, and valuable character without spending a penny. Now, it would appear, these old-fashioned schemes have had their day. People are tired of writing letters and essays that no paper would publish; they are tired of sending letters in impossible French to half-educated Bretons who return the compliment by deluging the Post Office with letters in alleged English, in the hope that the errors, if perceived, will be corrected. As Mr. Joseph Chamberlain used to say in his palmy days: *Nous avons changé tout cela*. Nowadays, it is patriotism and imperialism that hold the floor; we Anglo-Saxons are the finest pebbles on the beach, and there are some of us who utterly fail to understand what necessity there ever was for creation of the miserable alien, who cannot speak the language of heaven—i.e. diluted Scotch with a flavour of American blunders. But the foreigner having been permitted to land on the earth it behoves the English-speaking community to stand together shoulder to shoulder and blade to blade, so that Burns's wish that "man to man the world o'er, shall brethren be an a that," may become an accomplished fact. A true Anglo-Saxon could hardly be persuaded to call a dago his "brother," so that any danger from the entrance of interlopers would be averted. The latest of these "friends and friendships" schemes is just our old "friend" the matrimonial agency under new colours. And although it purports to hail from London we shall be much surprised if on investigation it is not found to be a Yankee notion, and a capital notion too, for it costs no money to start, the members' contributions keep it going, and the self-appointed officials are sublimely free from any responsibility whatsoever. From some leaflets which have come to us by the gross, as if we were likely to become hawkers of such literature, it would appear that you may become a member of the Correspondence Club or the English-Speakers' Link. The difference is considerable. If you wish to play fast and loose with the members, then you join the Club, preserve your anonymity, and pay 10s. 6d. a year subscription. But if you have no objection to disclosing your name and rank, together with the address of your castle and town residence, then you will become a Link, at the moderate charge of 2s. 6d. per annum. In connection with the Club, the members always preserving their anonymity, give in most cases a brief description of themselves, and they are a lovely lot. The ladies are tickled "B234" or whatever the number may be, while the gentlemen are known as the "A's". We have limited our suspicion that this "friends and friendships" movement is a matrimonial scheme in disguise. Let us look at the statements which the candid "B's" write around their personalities. To begin with it may be stated that they are all slim and active, all of medium height, all interested in country life, all fond of music, nature, pictures, reading—(does that include the household bills?)—sketching, all on the verge of the thirties, and all highly respectable, most of them having been orphans since their parents shuffled off this mortal coil. Who could resist this lady's appeal:—"Yorkshire woman; refined; broad-minded; homely, happy, and hopeful disposition; sympathetic; love for children, home and country life; considered to be frank, unconventional, and original. No near relatives. Would be very glad to hear from or to make the acquaintance of any A's or B's who would appreciate a genuine faithful friend." Who could disregard that? Then there is this wail from Devonshire:—"Widow; 36; brown hair and eyes; medium height; loves animals, cycling, boating, theatres, literature (Carlyle, Omar Khayyam, Victor Hugo, and not Corelli and Beethoven), travel and adventures; unconventional; agnostic; phenomenally broad-minded. Would welcome correspondence from anybody who would make me laugh, but not from any religious or teetotal personages. Am sympathetic, and intensely lonely mentally; would know how to value a genuine friend." Surely that describes the lady for whom half the bachelors in Hongkong are on the prowl. As for the gentlemen, they are all Solons with the features of Apollo. One writes from China to say that he is "27; M.D.; very sympathetic; refined; capable of an honourable and sincere friendship." Let us wish him good luck. An Irishman thinks it is not good for man to be alone and wishes some fair B to convince him of the fact. The list is endless, but these extracts will show how far the scheme is removed from the ordinary matrimonial agency. But as it is all done in the name of Empire and fraternity and as there is a possibility that the game may interest the players there is just the chance that it may succeed, although we would not advise our readers to become captivated with the prospect outlined.

TRAGEDY AT KOWLOON.

INDIAN SOLDIER KILLED—ANOTHER SENT TO HOSPITAL.

RIGHT OF MRS. UNDER ARREST.

Kowloon was aroused from its lethargy to-day by a most shocking tragedy which occurred there early this morning when an Indian soldier belonging to the 19th Baluchis was killed outright in barracks, and another removed to hospital by the Taim-tai-tai police suffering from severe stab wounds about the body. His condition is such as to permit of little hope of his recovery.

The news of the murder did not reach Hongkong until, at a late hour this afternoon, and then the particulars were of a most heinous character. At police headquarters where one of our representatives called in search of details nothing could be gathered. From other sources, however, our reporter was able to secure the main facts.

It would appear that for some months past there has existed a certain amount of bad feeling between a number of men in the 19th Baluchis, which increased day by day. What brought about this estrangement nobody can tell and it is very doubtful whether the true story will be told by the police. Be that as it may, the climax was reached early this morning when, after a quarrel, both parties engaged in a fight. At first sight no serious view was taken of the matter, but this opinion was soon altered when knives and sticks were brought into use. Several attempts were made to separate the combatants but this proved of no avail. The men clung to each other and fought like madmen. Suddenly there arose a cry of "I'm killed," and one of the soldiers fell to the floor. He had been stabbed to death. Realizing the terrible position in which they stood, the others seemed to have made an effort to escape, but the police who had been called during the affray arrived on the scene. The dead soldier they had conveyed to the mortuary and another sepoy whom they found badly injured was conveyed to hospital. An inquiry was then made and eight suspects were placed under lock and key pending further investigation.

THE SUBSCRIPTION GRIFFINS.

ARRIVAL OF THE FOURTH BATCH.

The fourth and last batch of subscription griffins for next year's race meeting were landed in the Colony yesterday, by the steamer *Hongkong*. They were drawn for at Kennedy's Stables in the afternoon. Eleven points, instead of twelve as was expected, arrived on this occasion. This was the result of an oversight made at Shanghai, which is of no consequence, as the missing animal is due here by the next boat. This had no effect on the drawings, the twelfth pony falling to Mr. R. Shewan. The result of the drawings we append:

Nos.	Colour.	Drawn.
3—(grey)		Mr. T. S. Forrest
5—(black)		Hon. Mr. H. Kewick
23—(grey)		Mr. H. N. Mody
67—(chestnut)		Mr. Lanziere
68—(grey)		Mr. H. N. Mody
69—(pale)		Hon. Mr. H. Kewick
71—(chestnut)		Mr. F. B. Marshall
71—(grey)		Hon. Mr. F. H. May
80—(bay)		Mr. A. Rodger
92—(grey)		Hon. Mr. H. Kewick
102—(grey)		Mr. I. R. M. Smith

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

ENGINEER-LIEUTENANT W. N. McDonald has been appointed to the *Tamar* for duty at Hongkong naval yard.

SIR WILLIAM DES VREUX recently underwent a severe operation at 35, Cadogan-square, and is now recovering satisfactorily.

SUB-LIEUTENANT H. H. G. Begbie's appointment to the *Highflyer*, Fast Indies Squadron, has been cancelled, and he joins the *King Alfred* instead.

We have to acknowledge with thanks, from Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., a desk date book and a calendar for 1908, on behalf of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Co. and the Yorkshire Insurance Co., respectively.

SIR HAVILLAND SAUSMAREZ, Chief Justice of Shanghai, and Lady Sausmarez are at present the guests of Sir Frederick and Lady Lugard, at Government House. They arrived from the North last evening by the P. and O. *Dilla*. To-night they leave for a trip to Canton.

LIEUT. COLONEL A. E. Aitken, commandant of the 19th Moulton Regiment, Hongkong, has been promoted brevet-colonel in the usual course, and Lieut. Colonel P. Holland, commandant of the 47th Sikhs, Tientsin, North China, has been similarly promoted brevet-colonel.

THE death is announced of Signor Mario Raggi, the well-known sculptor. Amongst his works is the noble Jubilee statue of Queen Victoria erected at Hongkong, with replicas at Toronto and Kimberley. It has a serious regal aspect, and the accessories are characterised by rare power. Another effort of force is the effigy of Sir Arthur Kennedy, late Governor of Hongkong.

It has been found necessary to postpone the appearance of Capt. Mauger, the late commandant of the French warship *Canary*, before the Council of War to answer for the loss of his vessel recently in Far Eastern waters, owing to his present state of health. He still suffers from the effects of the motor accident at Shanghai, and in consequence of the accident it is difficult to form precise recollections regarding the circumstances of the tragedy.

DROWNING FATALITY.

DEATH OF SIGNALMAN STREET.

Within this week H. M. S. Navy, as represented by the Fleet in port, has lost by death, under what can be fittingly described as somewhat tragic circumstances, two young members who, had they not come by their untimely accidental deaths, had bright careers of usefulness before them. The death of Able-Seaman Saunders has already been recorded in the columns of this paper, and it is to-day our melancholy duty to report the death of Signalman, R. H. Street, of H. M. S. *Tamar*. In anticipation of the Christmas festivities, Street proceeded to the Central Market on the 23rd inst. in the evening. After providing a nice little hamper with delectables of sorts for a good Christmas cheer Street proceeded to make his way back to the wharf to embark for the *Tamar*. He walked down to the Murray Pier wharf and there hailed a sampan. Street was unaccompanied by any of his comrades. It appears that he was seen to step into the sampan and as the little craft took a lurch the unfortunate mariner in stepping off the pier while the boat was just showing off, was precipitated forward and thrown headlong into the water; he was not seen to rise again. At any rate that was the explanation given by the sampanman to the authorities when questioned. A search for the body failed of results. It is certain that deceased met his death by no foul play, and that the drowning was one of those accidental mishaps which not infrequently intervene to claim a promising life yet in the prime of manhood.

At 9.30 a.m. yesterday the Police recovered the body of the Canton steamer's wharf. There were no marks on the corpse which was later removed to the Naval Mortuary at Wanchai. Needless to say, the whole of the ship's (*Tamar*) company felt profound gloom at the loss of one of their comrades who was generally considered one of the heartiest and most popular of good fellows in the whole of the Fleet. Deceased was but 23 years of age and at one time belonged to H.M.S. *King Alfred*.

The burial, attended by full Naval honours, took place this afternoon when young Street was laid to his last rest in the pretty Happy Valley cemetery, the band of his old ship—the *King Alfred*—playing the funeral marches as the cortege wound its way from the Naval Hospital to the burial-ground. There was the usual firing party, and among those attending the funeral were officers and marines from the flagships and the *Tamar*.

GAOL STAFF "SMOKING."

AN ENJOYABLE EVENING.

A few nights ago the "Bobbies" of Hongkong came out of their shell at the City Hall and gave an able illustration of how the part of hosts should be performed. Last night their brother officers at the Victoria Gaol showed they also knew something of that role when their annual smoking concert came off. The entertainment was held in the mess-room, Wyndham Street, and this, together with the approaches, had been most tastefully decorated and draped with bunting, garlands and imitation flowers. The flags of all nations were displayed to advantage around the walls; the whole effect showing considerable taste on the part of the committee. Refreshments were served from the canteen, and, needless to say, were done full justice to, while the "soothing weed," clay pipes, and lots of "baccy" were everywhere in evidence. Shortly after half-past eight o'clock the chair was taken by Mr. W. J. Wilkinson, who was supported by the vice-president, Mr. W. Watson, and there were besides a large number of guests present. Mr. W. J. Gast acted as President, and the committee were Messrs. J. McLeod, A. Ratcliffe, W. Ladd, A. Calvert and Robertson.

In opening the proceedings, the Chairman proposed the health of "The King" which was drunk amidst the strains of the National Anthem. Those who took part, vocally or instrumentally, were Messrs. Atkins, A. S. C. (piano), J. C. West, Hughes, Clarke, W. J. Tittus (oboe solo), Hutchison, W. L. Leckie, Young, Haynes, Steadman (cornet solo) Raybour and Master Willie Wilkinson. Honours were equally divided, but special mention must be made of a few who were indeed good. Mr. Hughes' "All doing the same" was capital, given, whilst for an encore "Travel," "amounted to a side-tripper." A recitation, "The Charge of the Light Brigade," by Mr. Clarke, created much laughter. Seven-year-old Willie Wilkinson in his recitation of "The Infant Orator" earned great applause. An encore was demanded, but the lad had disappeared. Messrs. Leckie and Hutchison were in great style in their comic sketches. The officers of the Victoria Gaol deserve congratulations for providing such an enjoyable evening.

The programme is appended:—

PART I.	
Selection.....	Mr. Atkins (piano)
Song.....	Mr. J. C. West
Comic Song.....	Mr. Hughes
Recitation.....	Mr. Wilkinson
Song.....	Mr. J. Williams
Recitation.....	Mr. Clarke
Song.....	Mr. W. J. Tittus
Comic Song.....	Mr. W. L. Leckie
Song.....	Mr. Young
Comic Song.....	Mr. Raybour
PART II.	
Selection.....	Mr. Atkins (piano)
Song.....	Mr. J. C. West
Comic Song.....	Mr. Hughes
Song.....	Mr. Wilkinson
Comic Song.....	Mr. J. Williams
Song.....	Mr. Clarke
Comic Song.....	Mr. W. J. Tittus
Song.....	Mr. W. L. Leckie
Comic Song.....	Mr. Young
Song.....	Mr. Raybour

THE MANILA CARNIVAL.

THE MANILA CARNIVAL.

The Manila Carnival Management have secured an order from the office of the Imperial Collector of Customs, Manila, which saves non-American tourists the payment of the annoying head tax of \$4 gold at a Philippine port. Under a circular dated December 14, 1907, the matter is outlined. Aliens to transit through the Philippine Islands are exempt. It is held that a person who comes to the Philippine Islands as a traveller for curiosity or pleasure, that is to say a *bona fide* tourist, and with the intent to depart again within a reasonable time and return to the country from whence he came, does not "enter" within the meaning of the Act imposing the tax. The fact that a person upon arrival is the possessor of a non-transferable return ticket limited as to the time of issue, and entitling him to transportation back to his town of departure, will be held *prima facie* to indicate that such person does not intend to enter within the meaning of the law. In practice, as regards the Hongkong patrons of the Carnival, which begins February 3, 1908, the Steamship Co. guarantees the payment of the head tax in case the alien shall, by failing to depart within a reasonable time, show that his intention was originally or has since become to enter the country.

Now that this matter has been cleared up and cheap rates provided by steamship companies between Hongkong and Manila, no doubt many will make their plans to go.

WEST RIVER PATROL.

INSPECTOR OF MACHINERY WANTED.

ANOTHER MASS MEETING.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 26th December.

Yesterday another mass meeting took place at the headquarters of the Canton Self-Government League to discuss the West River patrol question. Though the day was a wet one, there was a large gathering present. After some speeches and discussions the majority decided to petition U.E. the Viceroy to at once bring about the appointment of an officer as Inspector of Machinery for Chinese-owned launches instead of a Customs officer, in order to hold out greater inducement for the Chinese launch owners, to change their flag at an early date. The petition to be forwarded to the Viceroy was then drafted and read out to those present, who all approved of it. The majority also emphasised that steps should be at once taken for the enforcement of the regulations drawn up for the introduction of police in the different districts along the West River, and the local authorities be requested to place police forces in those districts within a period of three months. The League has also decided to send out six detectives to hunt up any bad characters that may be found harbouring in the villages in the riverine districts. After some more minor discussions and arrangements, the meeting ended.

A PEKING DESPATCH.

Writing from Peking on the 14th inst., the *M. C. D. News* correspondent says:—"The departure of the British fleet from Hongkong to suppress piracy on the West River has caused great excitement among the people of the Liangkwan Provinces, who have formed a Chinese Rights Recovery Association at Canton to protest against foreign interference. The Chinese Government has instructed Viceroy Chang Jia-chun at Canton to persuade the natives to dissolve the association. But his Excellency has telegraphed to the Waiwupu protesting against the British control of the West River which, he says, must be placed under Chinese authorities. The Viceroy proposes to divide the river into two sections, upper and lower, which are to be patrolled by four fast light-draught river gunboats with modern armaments in addition to the existing naval force, which is to be thoroughly reorganized upon foreign methods. The gunboats will be commanded by Chinese naval officers who will have any pirates they capture to the local territorial officials for trial without the interference of the Commissioner of the Imperial Maritime Customs at Wuchow. It is further suggested that the Commissioner shall only act as consulting official to the Chinese authorities in regard to the policing of the river, partly because he is a foreigner, and partly in consequence of the importance of his duties in his ordinary pursuits.

H.E. Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to Viceroy Chang bidding him inform the people of the Liangkwan Provinces that the Peking Government did not give permission for Great Britain to patrol the West River; but that, in view of the lack of modern gunboats at its disposal, the Waiwupu requested the British Minister in Peking to assist China with British gunboats for the suppression of the pirates. The people have entirely misunderstood the ideas of the Chinese Government.

LONDON COMMENTS.

It is satisfactory to learn that at the instance of Sir John Jordan, H.M. Minister in Peking, the Wai-wu-pu has arranged with the Viceroy Chang, at Canton, for the purchase of four light draught armed launches for patrolling duties on the troublesome West River for the protection of both native and foreign merchants, especially British, who have recently suffered very heavily at the hands of these pirates. The question of compensation, however, has not been settled yet, due to the slow action of the Chinese authorities. At first Sir John demanded that these boats should be put under the command of foreign officials, but they are now to be commanded by some competent Chinese naval officers educated in the Nanking and Canton Naval Colleges, without foreign interference. The annual expenditure for the upkeep of this squadron of Chinese launches will be defrayed out of the foreign revenue of the Imperial Maritime Customs, and the Controller-General of the Customs, and Revenue Office of the J. M. C., has granted the sum of £200,000 for the purchase of the gunboats and for meeting other initial expenses.—*L. S. C. Express*.

WALKING COMPETITION.

EUSITANO FOOTBALL CLUB.

We have received a copy of the rules for the forthcoming walking competition, organized by the Lusitano Football Club, to take place on Sunday next, the 29th inst. The rules are as follows:—

- Each competitor will wear a number on the breast to be provided for by the Committee.
- Pacemakers are not allowed.
- Competitor overtaking another shall pass him on either side without requiring him to make way.
- Except for the purpose of handing refreshment, coats, etc., no person shall touch a competitor while walking, and any competitor so touched, i.e., for the purpose of assistance in any form, shall be disqualified and likewise the team he is in.
- The course shall commence from Breezy Point recreation ground, down Park Road, turn to the right at "Li Villa" on to Bonham Road, Caine Road, Upper Albert Road, round Government House to Lower Albert Road, pass Government Offices and Volunteer Parade Ground, turn to the right to Garden Road, up to Kennedy Road, down to the Mount and pass the road between the Recreation Ground and the Race Course, turn to the right on to this road to Wong-nai-chong Village, up Wong-nai-chong Gap to Bowen Road, Albany Road, Caine Road and finish just in front of the Italian Convent gate.
- During the competition, any competitor leaves the course for any purpose he shall re-enter it at the point at which he left.
- The walking shall be known as "Fair Heel and Toe Walking."
- Each team to consist of 4 men.
- Any competitor infringing Rule No. 7 shall be warned by a referee who shall order him to walk back 10 yards. On the second offence the competitor shall be disqualified and likewise the team he is in.
- Some referees shall be stationed at different places and others shall follow the competitors, on foot, bicycle and on horse. Judges shall cause to be noted down the time of the various competitors as they come in and their decision shall be final.
- The team competition shall be decided as follows:—
The position of each competitor (first, second, third, etc.) shall be noted and the team whose total in places thus made is the least, shall be declared the winning team. For example, if "A" Team come in 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 14th, the total would be 26 points, and "B" Team in the following order, 1st, 4th, 5th and 20th, the total would be 30 points, thus "B" Team would be beaten by 4 points.
- In case of a dead-heat between any two or more competitors the average number of points is to be taken. For example, if 4 competitors finishing dead-heat for 13th place, the common ratio of 13/4, 15 and 16 is 14.75 which will be the number of points to each of the above 4 competitors. The first competitor arriving after the dead-heat as mentioned above, will count 17 points.
- In the case of dead-heat between teams, the team shall be the winner which has done the course in the best average time per man.
- A competitor not having travelled the entire official course is disqualified and likewise the team he is in.
- In the event of two or more teams being disappointed owing to member or members of the said teams having failed to turn up, members of the committee may re-pick on the ground entirely new teams or make what changes they think fit.
- Competitors are kindly requested to be on the Breezy Point Recreation Ground on Sunday, the 29th inst., at 8.45 a.m. sharp, and it is the duty of the captain of the team to get his men together.

TEAMS.

"A"	"B"
At Mr. J. M. Britto, (Capt.)	At Mr. J. A. S. Alves, (Capt.)
A2 Mr. F. Neves	A2 Mr. A. Remedios
A3 Mr. Carlos Siqueira	A3 J. Graça
A4 Mr. A. J. Ribeiro	A4 J. Castro
"C"	"D"
C1 Mr. H. J. Alves, (Capt.)	C1 Mr. F. A. Cordeira, (Capt.)
C2 Mr. J. V. Remedios	C2 Mr. F. F. E. Silva
C3 Mr. José Alberto	C3 Mr. H. M. Remedios
C4 Mr. L. G. Cordeiro	C4 Mr. C. A. P. Xavier
"E"	"F"
E1 Mr. D. Carvalho, (Capt.)	E1 Mr. A. V. Barros, (Capt.)
E2 Mr. P. da Rosa	E2 Mr. C. A. Remedios
E3 J. Barros	E3 F. Barreto
E4 Mr. J. Graça	E4 D. Lopes
"G"	"H"
G1 Mr. D. A. Remede	G1 Mr. J. M. Condeiro, (Capt.)
G2 Mr. F. P. de V.	G2 Mr. P. Vassovich
G3 Mr. H. Vieira	G3 Mr. F. Barros
G4 Mr. A. Luz	G4 C. Franco
"I"	"J"
I1 Mr. A. M. Neves, (Capt.)	I1 Mr. D. A. Soares, (Capt.)
I2 Mr. A. C. Botelho	I2 J. Moreira
I3 Mr. A. Figueira	I3 F. H. Byddin
I4 Mr. Baptista	I4 J. O. Remedios
"K"	"L"
K1 Mr. M. Guimarães, (Capt.)	K1 A. H. Corveth
K2 A. H. Corveth	K2 J. Sousa
K3 D. Sousa	K3 J. Sousa
K4 J. Sousa	K4 J. Sousa

INDIVIDUALS.

Mr. M. V. Leon,
J. M. Victor,
COMMITTEE.
Judges:—Messrs. M. E. Silva and A. M. L. Soares.
Starters:—A. E. S. Alves.
Timekeepers:—Messrs. C. M. P. Remedios and E. J. Figueiredo.
Referees:—Messrs. L. D'Almeida, A. Castro, A. G. Rocha, A. A. Alves, M. A. V. V. Silva, J. A. B. Silva, E. M. Castro, D. M. Cunha, R. Campos, O. F. Roizinho, A. A. Lopes, H. T. Jorge, F. B. Silva, C. M. V. Ribeiro, C. Ribeiro and R. Lemos.

THE LILLIPUTIANS.

"IN TOWN."

The inclement weather of the past few days is held responsible for a number of vacant seats in the Theatre Royal, where the "Young Uss" as they are called, are performing. With the lifting of the curtain last evening on "In Town"—a two-act musical comedy—little or no change was visible. During the entire evening a miserable drizzle fell on the muddy and deserted streets. Despite the weather there was a good attendance. The production kept the attention of the audience riveted on the stage from beginning to end and as the "plot" developed and became more and more interesting the frequent outbursts of applause told of the appreciation in which the folks were held. Master Teddy McNamara, as "Captain Arthur Coddington"—a man about town, who had a habit of getting into hot corners at times but always able to extricate himself with little or no difficulty, to—played that role to success. As the "Duke of Duffshire" Master Harold Fraser caused some amusement, while Miss Lillie Du held the part of "Lord Glanville," his son—a nobleman—who wanted to see the world. Her acting was such that it could not fail to enchant the audience. Miss Olive Moore played the part of the "Duchess of Duffshire" with strength and passion. The fun was supplied by the Helms brothers, whose funnies brought forth hearty applause. Master Freddie took the part of the "Rev. Samuel Hopkins, B.A.," and ably portrayed the caustic wit and diplomatic astuteness of a wily minister to a fine point. Master Johnnie, as "Joffman" (hall porter of the Caravan Hotel) and later as "Shrimp" (call-boy of the Ambiguity Theatre)—general "clucker out"—kept the house in roars of laughter as long as he was about and doing. "Kitty Hetherington" (prima donna of the Ambiguity Theatre) Miss Eva Pollard, and "Flo Fanahawe" (a dancer) Miss Ivy To'land, aided with distinction, while their dancing, in which they were assisted by the Misses Daisy Wilson, Merle Pollard, Eva Moore, Eileen Perkins, Ruby Ford, Eva Huxham, Gladie Hind, Alice Connolly, Ethel Naylor and May Martyr, was indeed clever.

"In Town" will be repeated to-night and to-morrow night. On Saturday there will be an alternate performance, children being admitted at half price.

FIRES AT SHANGHAI.

Supplementing our exclusive telegram of the 26th inst., the following report taken from the *N. C. News* of the following day gives a full account of the outbreak of fire on the Bund at Shanghai last week. The report says:—At noon yesterday an outbreak of fire occurred in the centre of the city and but for the prompt way in which it was dealt with a heavy loss in property would have resulted; for at one time the roofs of the Palace Hotel, the Chartered Bank and the North China Daily News godown were ablaze. The fire originated at the Palace Hotel, where at noon smoke was found to be issuing from the roof at the far corner near the Chartered Bank. The outbreak was located between the ceiling and the cornice of iron of the roof over the baggage lift, which is immediately above the kitchen. Mr. M. J. Nathan, the manager, at once ordered the Hotel engine to be set to work and the hoses were run from the reels on each floor. The engine pumped good strong streams on the top floor and the Hotel staff began to play on the fire with their hoses after a second length had been added. The high wind fanned the flames, and just after the Fire Brigade arrived the corner of the roof of the Chartered Bank became ignited. The firemen, who had turned out very promptly with the Deane and Victoria engines, the motor chemical engine, ladders and reels, set to work with a will. One man got on to the roof of the Palace Hotel to play on the fire, but he began to slip down towards the flames; and after this narrow escape men were lowered by ropes and pluckily fought the flames from this dizzy height, while others assisted by breaking down the burning woodwork. One fireman slipped and fell into one of the water tanks which are close under the roof at this spot.

The Chartered Bank had meanwhile taken fire and a hose was brought up to the verandah of the premises at the rear. The manager of the Hotel, seeing the danger of the bank, ordered the hose from the fourth floor to be turned on the bank from the verandah. In this way the safety of the Bank premises was assured in a short time. A third fire was then observed by the crowds which occupied the roofs of all the buildings in the vicinity; the apex of the roof of the North China Daily News godown was well alight. The firm's own appliances were brought into requisition and the fire was at a hose up through the printing offices, but the chemical hose from outside sufficed to extinguish the flames. A fair-sized hole had been burned through the roof and a few bales of paper were damaged. The Brigade were at work about an hour before all the property was out of danger, and the members deserve great credit for the thoroughly smart and efficient manner in which they did their work. The hole in the roof of the Palace Hotel show how serious was the outbreak and with such a gale blowing it is indeed fortunate that it was possible by strenuous effort to subdue the flames.

As to the cause of the fire it may be stated that in the morning there was trouble with the lifts at the Palace Hotel and it was thought that the fusion of an electric wire might have caused the woodwork to smoulder and this the wind fanned into flame. After a careful examination, however, it was ascertained that a defective fuse was the origin of the trouble. There is no doubt that sparks were carried by the wind to the other buildings and that they were blown between the tiles and woodwork and the corrugated iron and tiling of the Chartered Bank and "Daily News" godown respectively. Large crowds gathered in the adjacent streets, but the police, under the personal supervision of Lt.-Col. B. C. Lee, who with the Deputy-Superintendent, Mr. E. J. M. Egan, were the first to arrive on the scene, kept the people back; so that the firemen were not hampered in their work. Streams of water were obtained from "Nanking Road." The Bund and Kiangling Road and the pressure from the engines was adequate for every need of the Palace Hotel.

CANTON DAY BY DAY.

RAILWAY DIRECTOR'S RESIGNATION.

From Our Own Correspondent.
Caption, 26th December.
The vice-president of the Canton-Hankow Railway Company, Mr. Wong Shu-ping, has tendered his resignation to the directors of the company, and his resignation has now been accepted.

Four foreign engineers engaged by the Canton-Hankow Railway Company have arrived here and will be sent to the district of Yingtak and its vicinity to do some survey work. Six more engineers will be appointed to push on the work of this road so as to bring it to an early completion.

YUNCHOW RIOTERS.

Recently the bandits to the prefecture of Yunchow again threatened to attack the district of Lingshan, so Admiral and Commander-in-chief Chun applied to the authorities by wire for 400 rifles and 100,000 rounds of ammunition to be forwarded to him at once to meet requirements in case of emergency.

BLACK MAIL.

The other day, a blackmail letter, signed by a notorious robber, Luk Lau-ching, and two other brigands, was received by Mr. T. E. Griffith of Shamen, from Hongkong, demanding a sum of \$1,000 to be handed to them through a certain gambling house named in Canton. The British Consul-General here, on behalf of Mr. Griffith, has communicated with H.E. the Viceroy on the matter.

CHINESE NEUROUSNESS.

A correspondent writing from the district of Sun-on states that a British gunboat is seen surveying along the coast of that district and that the natives of that locality are greatly disturbed at the presence of the survey vessel.

CUSTOMS STATION.

Some time ago, a customs station was established in Nam Tau, in the district of Sun-on, under the control of the Commissioner of Customs at Kowloon to collect duty on junk passing through that locality, but the junk owners refused to consent to pay at this station and joined in a strike. The magistrate of that district and Wei-yuan Si Wing-nien had a conference with the Kowloon Commissioner with the result that the latter has consented to the removal of this station, and the duty is to be collected as formerly.

THE LEGEND OF SANTA CLAUS.

Nicholas, the son of Epiphanius and Joanna, was born about the year 301 at Patara, a city in the province of Lycia, in Asia Minor. What St. George is to knightly St. Nicholas is to the poor. He is called in Russia, of which country he is patron, the Little Father Nicholas. In Italy, where his remains are supposed to lie at Bari, he is called San' Niccolò, or San' Nicola; he is patron of the coast. In England, in France, and in Germany he is held a great saint, and from the last country comes the name we know him by most familiarly—Santa Claus. As Santa Claus he has been secularized by us in Father Christmas; and Father Christmas, with his white beard and venerable garments, is one and the same person with Saint Nicholas, the young, brown, and beardless Bishop of Myra.

His patronage is more extensive than that of any other saint, for he is the protector of children, young poor girls, merchants, scholars, and particularly of sailors. His emblems are three golden balls, which are seen on many shields by him in old stained glass, three purses on a book, an anchor, a ship, and a tub containing three children.

Now when Nicholas was still a youth his father and mother died, and he was left in possession of great riches. He heard that a certain knight had come upon evil days, and, having no money, was debating sending his three daughters to beg along the highway that they might get food for themselves and for him. Nicholas started out one night with a purse of gold in his hand, coming privily to the knight's house, he looked through the window. There sat the knight, weeping bitterly at the side of his daughters' bed; and they were asleep, all unconscious of their miserable fate. Nicholas dropped his purse in through the window.

Again he came another night (hearing that the knight had dowried his eldest child), and put in a second purse. And he did it a third time; but this time the father was on the look-out for his benefactor, and called upon him to stop and receive his great thanks. So Nicholas did this, and many other works of charity in his city and in other places, and his fame grew and has lived after him.

In memory of this there grew up a custom in Christian countries of giving presents in secret on the Vigil of Saint Nicholas. In Italy it was called the Zopata, which means, in Spanish, a shoe, because the gifts were put into shoes, to surprise people when they should put them on in the morning. In many French convents the boarders used to place each her silk stocking at the door of the room of the Mother Abbess, recommending themselves at the same time to Saint Nicholas. And in Germany a boy dressed as a bishop would go round in vestments and mitre and fill the stockings hung up.

This solemnity of the Boy Bishop came to be kept here with much care and ceremony on the feast of Saint Nicholas, to commemorate his youth and his patronage of children. In Salisbury Cathedral there is, or was, a monument to one of these Boy Bishops who died during his term of office. The same custom was observed in Spain, and in Switzerland until the end of the eighteenth century. At one place in England, the convent of Godstowe, in Oxfordshire, public prayers were said by a little girl dressed as an abbess.

This custom, stopped here first by Henry VII. and afterwards by Queen Elizabeth, was, in a different form, carried on by the Dutch in America, and became in the end the secularized ceremony we still see here of Santa Claus, a person dressed in Dutch or German winter clothes of the sixteenth century.—Dion Clayton in the Christmas Double Number of the *Pitt News Magazine*.

THE PASSING OF BABEL.

Superficially, it may seem a far cry from the Scriptural deluge to the commercial conditions in modern China—but, as a critic once sagaciously observed, "Whatever is as obvious about a Chinaman as the nose of his face, you may confidently affirm now is" (absence of) literal nose was not, however, intended). Thence then the connection. After the Flood, it will be remembered, certain building construction was taken in hand, the ill success of which enterprise is attributed to incompatibility of language among the workmen. So in China, extensive foreign commerce has been for some considerable period in process of creation, with a minimum of success, when all the possibilities are borne in mind. To this result many factors have contributed, but chiefest among them stands—Babel.

The fact that the written language of China is entirely distinct from the spoken, and has to be studied as a separate speech, is now a commonplace of knowledge, though perhaps fewer Europeans understand that there are three written languages—classical, modern literary, and business, differing from each other and from all spoken media of communication. But what never does seem realized by the untravelled Western observer is the existence of seven (some scholars say nine) separate colloquials, each as entirely unlike the other as, for example, English, German, and Dutch. The use of the term "dialects" for Cantonese, Hakka, Shanghai, Ningpo, and Mandarin Chinese, to mention the leading languages, is as misleading as to describe French and Italian as dialects of Latin.

By reason of this diversity of speech the native of one province is frequently unable to speak with his fellow-countryman of the next; and the internal commercial situation thus created is hardly conceivable to a world-spread yet single-longed race like the British.

Since the arrival of the European, pidgin has become the commonest means of communication between natives of different provinces, but obviously a language of such limited vocabulary is liable to frequent misinterpretation. To the average foreigner engaged in trade pidgin is, however, the only possibility, since time will not admit of the study of half a dozen colloquials, and it seems useless to acquire one which could only be of occasional service. In respect of the language handicap, therefore, the native and the foreigner are in the same boat, and trade expansion, internal and external, moves at a foot pace instead of with express speed.

Quite a little time back, as dates are reckoned in China—in be accurate, short, before the Christian era—a monarch of post-millennium mind, but pre-historic method, thought to remedy this language question. His Majesty T'ien Shih Huang Ti ordered the

DESTRUCTION OF ALL BOOKS.

throughout the Empire in a der that a new universal language might come into being, and this as a first step, presumably, to the establishment of a single spoken language also. The violent means, especially among a script-reverencing people like the Chinese, was foredoomed to failure, and the Empire merely inaugurated a new dynasty, while the mongered languages started on a renewed and revived lease of life.

During the last twenty years the ideal of T'ien Shih Huang Ti in respect of the spoken tongue has found warm acceptance and frequent expression among all foreigners, and not a few progressive Chinese. Two or three schemes whereby it might be realised have been propounded by those concerned with the introduction of modern education, but have fallen to the ground almost before they were elaborated, as all such suggestions must do, so long as they come from without. But the movement is no longer wholly from without. Very early in the present century the Reform leaders, and the native educationalists, began to discuss, not the principle of one language, for the nation, that was fully accepted, but the practical means by which the end might be gained. Interest in the subject has of course fluctuated, but now it is once more prominently in evidence, with the definite proposition that Mandarin shall be accepted as the standard, mutual currency of China. Mandarin is the most modern of the colloquials, but is also by far the most widely spread. Being the standard in Peking it is necessary for all senior officials, at any rate, to learn it for the purpose of communication with their chiefs at the capital; so that already, the governing classes, though speaking, naturally, various colloquials, have all acquired Mandarin also, as a stepping-stone to advancement. For this and other causes,

MANDARIN IS THE GREATLY PREDOMINATING LANGUAGE.

and understood probably by three-fourths of the people, even when not their common speech. It is, therefore, difficult to imagine any of the older speeches will take its place, should one language be finally adopted as the school medium, which forms the crux of the present proposal. This method is, of course, the surest and safest, and will ensure that in the Parliament of twenty years hence legislative deliberations will be carried on in a common tongue; and if, as the reformers purpose, the colloquial and written languages are to be identical, it will become possible for the great body of the people to follow, in the Press, the debates of their representatives. From the point of view of creations of a Chinese people, and the wedding of the cumbersome Chinese Empire, no single factor is anything like so important as the defeat of Babel and the establishment of a single language. The effect on trade—direct by virtue of facility of communication, and indirect in the advent of Chinese homogeneity—can hardly be forecasted, as far-reaching, must it prove, but the possibilities must appeal to the imagination of even the inexpert critic.—*Pitt News Magazine*.

To-day's Advertisements.

HONGKONG HOTEL.

—MENU—

SATURDAY, December 28th, 1907.

DINNER.

HOBBS D'ARVRES.

Macassar Fish on Toast.

SOUP.

Princess.

FISH.

Stewed Fish and Oyster Sauce.

ENTREES.

Braised Leg of Mutton and Haricot Beans.

Duckling Farcie and Green Peas.

Mouglas Patties.

CURRY.

Malaya.

JOINTS, &c.

Roast Sirloin of Beef and Horseradish.

Roast Capon and Bread Sauce.

Boiled Bacon and Spinach.

Cold Corned Ox Tongue and Mixed Salad.

SWEETS.

Baked Rice Pudding.

Plum Pudding and Hard Sauce.

Strawberry Ice Cream and Finger Cakes.

Cheese Straws.

DESSERT.

Coffee.

Fruits.

THE CATHOLIC UNION.

ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.

A Burlesque in Two Acts.

"LOVE IN LOTUS LAND."

Dates of Performances:

SATURDAY, 28th Dec. 9 P.M.

MONDAY, 30th "

SATURDAY, 4th Jan. "

MATINEE:

THURSDAY, 2nd January, 5.30 P.M.

Plans of Seats now on View at above address.

Admission \$1.

For Children 50 cents at Matinee only.

Hongkong, 27th December, 1907. [1123]

THE GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH

CO., LTD. OF COPENHAGEN.

NOTICE.

CURRENCY CHARGES ON

TELEGRAMS.

REFERRING to the Company's notice of the 20th September last, the Senders of Telegrams are hereby advised that from the 1st January, 1908, the Charge for Telegrams will, subject to revision after three months, be collected at the Rate of 10/3d equal to Fr. 1.00.

H. BULOW FRISKE.

Acting Superintendent.

Hongkong, 27th December, 1907. [1119]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamer

"ARCADIA,"

FROM BOMBAY, COLOMBO AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where consignments will be sorted out mark by mark, and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.

This vessel brings on Cargo:—

From London, &c., ex S.S. Victoria.

From Persian Gulf, ex B.I.S.N. and B.S.

P. S. N. Co.'s Steamers.

Optional Goods will be landed here unless instructions are given to the contrary before 6 hours.

Goods not cleared by the 2nd proximo, at 4 P.M., will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in any case whatever.

Damaged Packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignee's and the Company's representative at an appointed hour.

All Claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognised.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns.

E. A. HERWITT,

Superintendent.

Hongkong, 27th December, 1907. [12]

THEATRE ROYAL

CITY HALL.

To-night and Every Evening, at 9.15.

POLLARD'S LILLIPUTIAN

OPERA CO.

Mr. C. A. POLLARD and Mr. N. CHESTER, SOLE OWNERS.

TO-NIGHT (FRIDAY) and TO-MORROW (SATURDAY), 27th and 28th December:

"IN TOWN."

TO-MORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON, Dec. 28th,

GRAND MATINEE at 3.30 P.M.

"IN TOWN."

(Children half-price to Matinee only).

NEXT MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, Dec. 30th, 31st, and Jan. 1st.

"LA POUPÉE."

NEXT THURSDAY, Jan. 2nd, GRAND NEW YEAR'S PANTOMIME,

"MOTHER GOOSE."

Late Trains to the Peak 15 minutes after each performance.

PRICES: \$5.00, \$2.00 and \$1.00.

BOX PLAN AT THE ROBINSON PIANO CO. [1102]

SHIPPING AND MAILS.

MAILS DUE.

Indian (*Lalung*) 29th inst.American (*Hongkong Maru*) 30th inst.German (*Zieten*) 3rd prox., a.m.Australian (*Chingfu*) 3rd prox.The C. P. R. Co.'s S.S. *Empress of China* 1st Yokohama p.m., on 26th inst., for Victoria and Vancouver.The Jave-Chien-Japan Line S.S. *Tiffo* 1st Yokohama p.m., on 26th inst., and may be expected here on or about the 2nd prox.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW.

THE Company's Steamship

"HAIMUN."

Captain Robson, will be despatched for the above Port, on SUNDAY, the 29th inst., at 10 o'clock a.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, 27th December, 1907. [1124]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOCHOW.

THE Company's Steamship

"HAICHING."

Captain Hodgins, will be despatched for the above Ports, on TUESDAY, the 31st inst., at 10 o'clock a.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, 27th December, 1907. [1120]

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE.

THE H. A. L. Steamship

"C. FERD. L. EISZ."

Captain Wagner, having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature by the Undersigned and to take immediate delivery of their goods from alongside.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before TO-DAY.

Any Cargo impeding her discharge will be landed into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

All Claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognised.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 3rd prox., will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 3rd prox., at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE,

Hongkong Office.

Hongkong, 26th December, 1907. [1121]

"BEN" LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

S.S. "BENVORLICH"

FROM LEITH, LONDON AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 3rd prox., will be subject to rent.

All Claims against the Steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 10th prox., or they will not be recognised.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 3rd prox., at 11 A.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 27th December, 1907. [1125]

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FROM CALCUTTA, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

THE Company's Steamship

"FOOKSANG."

having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that their Goods will be delivered from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge or remaining on board after 12 o'clock Noon, the 27th inst., will be landed at Consignees' risk and expense.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., General Managers.

Hongkong, 27th December, 1907. [16]

Intimations

THE

ROBINSON PIANO

CO., LD.

INVITE INSPECTION

OF

New Stock

OF

Steinway,

Bechstein,

Russell,

Krauss,

Romhildt,

Werner, & Co.

GRANDS & UPRIGHTS

BUILT UNDER OUR PERSONAL SUPERVISION

EMBOUING 30 YEARS' LOCAL

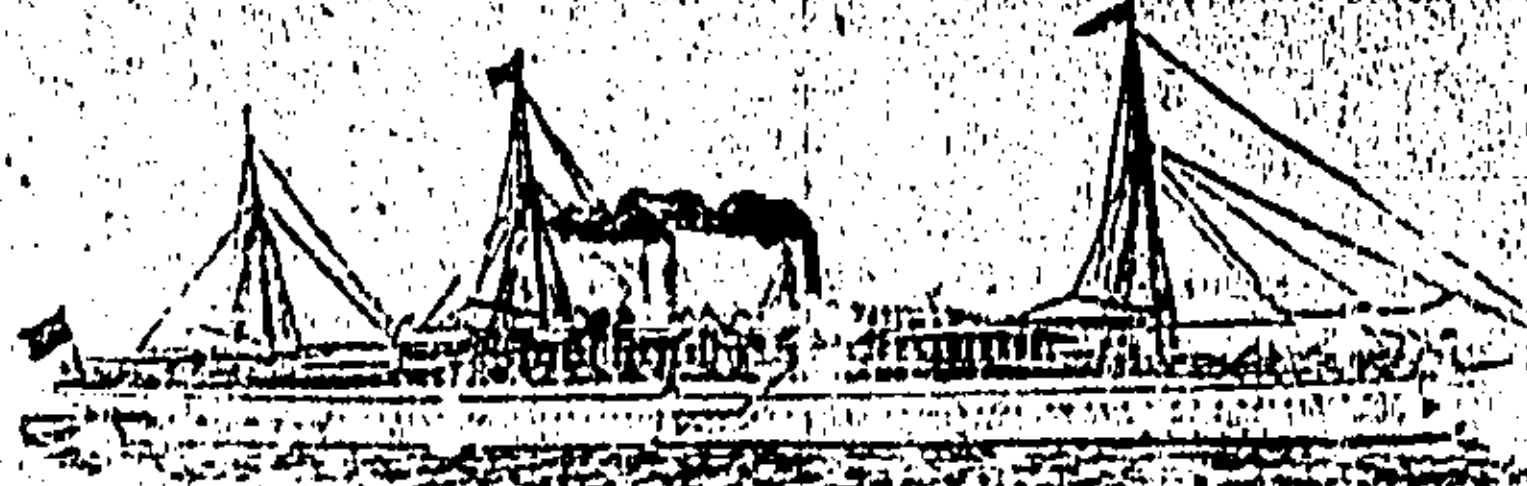
EXPERIENCE.



Hongkong, 5th December, 1907. [13]

XMAS AND

Shipping—Steamers.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COY'S
ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.

Luxury—Speed—Punctuality.

The only Line that maintains a Regular Schedule Service of under Eleven Days across the Pacific is the "Empress Line." Saving 5 to 10 Days Ocean Travel.

11 Days YOKOHAMA to VANCOUVER. 18 Days HONGKONG to VANCOUVER.

PROPOSED SAILINGS.	(Subject to Alteration).
M.M.S. Tons	LEAVE HONGKONG ARRIVE VANCOUVER
"EMPEROR OF INDIA" 6,000	THURSDAY, Jan. 16th Feb. 3rd
"MONTEAGLE" 6,163	WEDNESDAY, Jan. 29th Feb. 22nd
"EMPEROR OF JAPAN" 6,000	THURSDAY, Feb. 13th Mar. 2nd
"EMPEROR OF CHINA" 6,000	THURSDAY, Mar. 12th Mar. 31st
"EMPEROR OF INDIA" 6,000	THURSDAY, April 9th April 27th
"MONTEAGLE" 6,163	WEDNESDAY, April 22nd May 16th

The Quickest route to CANADA, UNITED STATES AND EUROPE, calling at SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, (through the INLAND SEA OF JAPAN), KOBE, YOKOHAMA, and VICTORIA, B.C., and at QUEBEC, with the Company's New Patriotic "EMPEROR" Steamships, 14,500 tons, register. The through transit to LIVERPOOL being 22 days, from YOKOHAMA, and 29 days from HONGKONG.

First-class rates include cost of Meals and 1st Class on Railways to New York City.

R.M.S. "MONTEAGLE" carries "Intermediate" passengers only, at Intermediate rates, affording superior accommodation for that class.

Passengers booked through to all points and AROUND THE WORLD.

SPECIAL RATES (First class only) granted to Missionaries, Members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic and Civil Services, and to European Officials in the Service of China and Japan Governments.

For further information, Maps, Routes, Hand Books, Rates of Freight and Passage, apply to

HONGKONG, 27th December, 1907. U. W. CRADDOCK, General Traffic Agent for China.

Corner, Pedder Street and Praya.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LD.

(PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.)

For	Steamship	On
SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBE	FOORSANG	SATURDAY, 28th Dec, 3 P.M.
HAIPHONG, YOKOHAMA, KOBE	MAUSANG	SUNDAY, 29th Dec, Daylight
SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBE	HANISANG	MONDAY, 30th Dec, 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBE	LOONGSANG	TUESDAY, 31st Dec, 3 P.M.
SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBE	LOONGSANG	FRIDAY, 3rd Jan, 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBE	LOONGSANG	TUESDAY, 7th Jan, 3 P.M.

REDUCED FARES TO STRAITS & CALCUTTA.

Hongkong to Singapore 1st Class	Single	Return
	\$ 55	\$ 100
Penang	85	150
Calcutta	150	250

* These Steamers have superior accommodation for First-class Passengers, and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.

Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to Chefoo, Tientsin, via Ching-Wan-Tau, and Yangtze Ports.

Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to Kudat, Lahad, Datu, Simporna, Tawao, Usukan, Jesselton and Labuan.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LD., General Managers.

Hongkong, 26th December, 1907.

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LIMITED.

FOR	STEAMSHIP	TO SAIL
HAIPHONG	"HUPEH"	28th Dec, daylight
HOIHOW & PAKHOI	"KWEIYANG"	31st " daylight
MANILA	"TEOH"	31st " 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"YONHOW"	31st " "
MANILA, ZAMBOANGA & COLONIES	"TAIYUAN"	31st " "
CEBU & ILOILO	"KAIFONG"	3rd Jan, "
SHANGHAI	"KIUKIANG"	3rd " "
MANILA	"TAMING"	7th " "
YOKOHAMA & KOBE	"OHINOTU"	9th " "

* The Attention of Passengers is directed to the Superior Accommodation offered by these steamers, which are fitted throughout with Electric Light. Unrivalled table. A duly qualified Surgeon is carried.

Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, AGENTS.

Hongkong, 27th December, 1907.



HONGKONG—MANILA.

Highest Class, newest, fastest and most luxurious Steamers between Hongkong and Manila—Saloon amidships—Electric Light—Perfect Cuisine—Surgeon and Stewardess carried. —All the most up-to-date arrangements for comfort of Passengers.

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

Steamship.	Tons.	Captain.	For	Sailing Dates.
ZAFIRO	2540	R. Rodger	MANILA	SATURDAY, 28th Dec, 1907.
RUBI	2540	Almond	"	SATURDAY, 4th Jan, 1908.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

SHEWAN TOMES & CO., GENERAL MANAGERS.

Hongkong, 23rd December, 1907.

CHINA & MANILA STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED.

MANILA CARNIVAL.

A CARNIVAL is to be held in MANILA under Government auspices during the week commencing 3rd FEBRUARY, 1908. As an inducement to Hongkong residents to patronize this important event, besides enjoying a holiday of reasonable length, we have decided to dispatch our steamer "RUBI" on FRIDAY, 31st January, in the evening instead of at Noon on Saturday. The steamer will, therefore, reach Manila early on Monday morning, and in order that the full week's festivities may be enjoyed we shall not dispatch the steamer from Manila until SUNDAY morning, 9th February, at Daylight. Steamer will reach Hongkong again on the afternoon of Tuesday, 11th February.

We have arranged a Special Fare for this Round Trip of \$50, and we shall allow passengers to remain on board during the stay in Manila for 30 per cent. inclusive. We trust to secure sufficient passengers to justify our having offered this inducement.

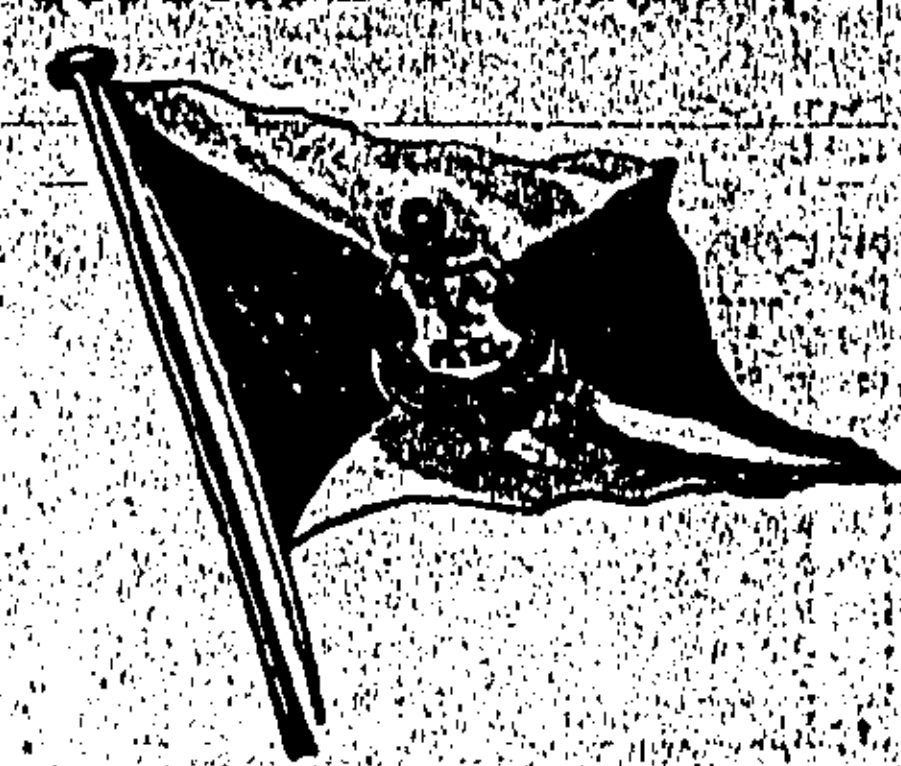
For further particulars, apply to the Undersigned.

SHEWAN TOMES & CO., General Managers.

Hongkong, 14th December, 1907.

Shipping—Steamers.

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE.



107 Ocean Steamer

with

916,000

Br. Reg. Tons.

PASSENGER SERVICE.

RHENANIA, HARSBURG, HOHENSTAUFEN, SILESIA, SCANDIA.

HIGHEST COMFORT, ONLY
LOWER BERTHS.

Laundry on board, Doctor, Stewardess carried.

Ports of call: NAPLES, PLYMOUTH, HAVRE, HAMBURG.

NEXT SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

Outward.

RHENANIA	21st Jan, 1908
HOHENSTAUFEN	22nd Feb, 1908

Homeward.

SCANDIA	9th Jan, 1908
HARSBURG	30th Jan, 1908
RHENANIA	26th Feb, 1908
HOHENSTAUFEN	25th March, 1908

Hongkong, 24th December, 1907.

HONGKONG-NEW YORK.



AMERICAN ASIATIC STEAMSHIP CO.

FOR NEW YORK via PORTS AND SUEZ CANAL.

(With Liberty to Call at the Malabar Coast.)

Steamship

"INDRAPURA" On or about the 8th January, 1908.

For Freight and further information, apply to

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO., General Agents.

Hongkong, 23rd December, 1907.

EASTERN AND AUSTRALIAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE, (Calling at Port Darwin, and Queensland Ports, and taking through Cargo to Adelaide, New Zealand, Tasmania, &c.)

THE Steamship

"ALDENHAM" Captain St. John George, will be despatched as above, TO-MORROW, the 28th inst., at Noon.

This well-known Steamer is specially fitted for Passengers, and has a Refrigerating Chamber which ensures the supply of Fresh Provisions, Ice, &c., throughout the voyage.

The Steamer is installed throughout with the Electric Light.

A Stewardess and a duly qualified Surgeon are carried.

N.B.—To assure the additional comfort of passengers the steamers of the Company have electric fans fitted in staterooms.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 27th December, 1907.

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TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE.

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN HONGKONG, CALLAO AND IQUIQUE via JAPAN PORTS (KARATSU, KOBE and YOKOHAMA).

With liberty to call at HONOLULU and SALINA CRUZ.

Steamers Tons To sail

KATHERINE PARK 6,000 MONDAY, 30th inst., Noon.

KASATO MARU 6,100 Sometime in March, 1908.

Taking Freight and Passengers to other Eastern and Western Coast ports of South America in connection with Steamers of the Pacific S. N. Co.

For further information as to Freight and Passage, apply to

K. MATSUDA, Manager, Yokohama Building.

Hongkong, 26th December, 1907.

STEAM TO CANTON.

THE New Twin Screw Steel Steamers

"KWONG TUNG" Capt. H. W. WALKER.

"KWONG SAI" Capt. E. S. CROWE.

Leave Hongkong for Canton at 9 o'clock evening, (Saturday excepted).

Leave Canton for Hongkong at 5.30 every evening, (Sunday excepted).

These Fine New Steamers have unexcelled Accommodation for First Class Passengers and are lit throughout by Electricity. Electric Fan in First Class Cabins.

Passage Fare—Single Journey—\$4.

Meals—\$1.25 each.

The Company's Wharf is situated in front of the New Western Market, opposite the old Harbour Office.

YUEN ON & CO., LTD., 110 Queen's Road West.

Hongkong, 2nd July, 1907.

Consignees.

"MOGUL" LINE OF STEAMERS.
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

STEAMSHIP "LENNOX" FROM GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Ltd., at Kowloon, whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 27th instant will be subject to rent.

All Claims against the Steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 20th Jan., 1908, or they will not be recognized.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 27th instant, at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by DODWELL & CO., LIMITED, Agents.

Hongkong, 21st December, 1907.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co's Steamer

"SUNDA" FROM ANTWERP, LONDON, MALTA, PORT SAID, SUEZ AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each consignment will be sorted out Mark by Mark, and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.

Optional Goods will be landed here unless instructions are given to the contrary before 6 hours.

Goods not cleared by the 29th inst., at 4 P.M., will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in any case whatever.

Damaged Packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignee's and the Company's representative at an appointed hour.

All claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognized.

No claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns.

E. A. HEWETT, Superintendent.

Hongkong, 23rd December, 1907.

THE "SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS, LTD.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM MIDDLESBOROUGH, ANTWERP, LONDON, COLOMBO AND STRAITS.

THE Steamship

"CARNARVONSHIRE"

Captain G. W. Jackson, having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, Kowloon, and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 1st January will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on TUESDAY, 31st December, at 2.30 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by SHEWAN, TOMES & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 25th December, 1907.

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE.

THE H. A. L. Steamship

"HARSBURG"

Captain. Filler, having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature by the Undersigned and to take immediate delivery of their goods from alongside.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before TO-DAY.

Any Cargo impeding her discharge will be landed into the Godowns and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

All Claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognized.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 1st prox, will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 31st inst., at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE, Hongkong Office.

Hongkong, 25th December, 1907.

S.S. "SALAZIE."

COMPAGNIE DES MESSEGERIES MARITIMES.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo from London ex ss. "Doris" and "Bordeaux," from Bordeaux ex ss. "Villiers," and from Vathy ex ss. "Niger," in connection with above Steamer, are hereby informed that their Goods, with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables, are being landed and stored at their risk into the Godowns and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, at Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained immediately after landing.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded on unless instructions are given to the Undersigned before TO-DAY, requesting it to be landed here.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Undersigned. Goods remaining undelivered after THURSDAY, the 2nd January, 1908, at Noon, will be subject to rent and landing charges.

All claims must be sent in to me on or before the 2nd January, 1908, or they will not be recognized.

All damaged packages will be examined on THURSDAY, the 2nd January, 1908, at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

J. MILLET, Agent.

Hongkong, 15th December, 1907.

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HIGH FINANCE.

THE SITUATION IN AMERICA.

BY M. L. OUTWALT.

There could be no greater evidence of the solid nature of British finance than the want of recognition that is apparent of the character of the cataclysm in which America is involved. Yet it may well be that these are the days of the fulfilment of many a prophecy of ultimate disaster to the financial fabric of the Republic made by those who have recognised the rottenness of the basis on which it has been reared; and the time may even be at hand for the outbreaks of those revolutionary fires which for years past have threatened to break through the social crust.

Once again the dictum of Carlyle is being made good: "No falsehood did it rise heaven, high and cover the earth with its branches, but bankruptcy will one day sweep it down and make us rid of it."

For bankruptcy is to-day sweeping down the most stupendous falsehood the world has witnessed—the falsehood that a nation can prosper that permits a few thousand of citizens to plunder the remaining 80,000,000. We read in the newspapers that all will soon be well because the wealth of America is so great. Truly the wealth of America is great in land, iron, coal, oil, factories, telegraphs, telephone, railways, but the hand of monopoly is on all these things, and the wealth of America has consequently been made the means of her undoing.

ON THE MONOPOLY OWNERSHIP OF THAT wealth a vast plunder system has been based; and 9,000,000 citizens have been made tributary to the monopolists. The latter have floated their rights to levy tribute into joint stock companies, selling to the people the privilege of robbing themselves. Encouraged by the dazzling success of "Trusts" based upon the sure foundations of natural monopolies, other Trusts without such security sprang into existence. Their method of operation has been to obtain the savings of the people by offering high rates of interest to depositors; and these funds the directors have loaned to themselves for share market operations.

There were too many at the game for it to last; and the fraud was too transparent for it to be indefinitely concealed. Depositors took alarm and began to demand their money. It was not forthcoming, having been converted into scrip, now unsaleable. The doors had to be closed, and the swindle exposed to the light of day. Now the cry save qui put having been raised throughout the nation, the rush is the rush of millions; and everywhere doors must be closed pending the liquidation of assets, largely consisting of paper.

THE PROBLEM OF THE FUTURE.

Then comes the step that spells disaster to the millions. All the enterprises based upon prospective plunder receive a check. The national assets, its land, its stores of mineral wealth, remain in part locked up awaiting the coming again of a time when they may be utilised as counters in a joint stock gamble. The monopolists, being unable to consume the wealth created, the cry of "over-production" is raised; and workers are discharged. Their consumption of commodities being reduced to a minimum, further "over-production" results in other directions, followed by further discharges—and so it wave upon waves the wide of industrial depression rolls on to submerge the land. Only one thing is now wanting to complete the disaster—namely, the debasement of the currency, which would tend to raise prices and reduce the purchasing capacity of wages. Under-consumption would then be intensified, and the lot of the workers become unendurable.

Thus it has been in other times and places, and so it will be in America; and prediction only falters because the portents indicate an upheaval that in its political and industrial results will shake the world. The monstrous lie that a nation can be taxed and plundered into prosperity is going the way of all lies. The question is whether the system of Government which faltered that lie will survive the cataclysm of its casting out.

STIRRED TO THE DEPTHS.

The one thing certain is that there cannot be such a reconstruction as will restore the old position. The people may cry for a ruler to restore order out of chaos, and a military despotism may result; or they may recreate the Republic and overthrow monopoly by reaffirming the inalienable rights of man to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." In any case, there will be a stirring in the depths of the world; a tremor that will shake the foundations of all institutions based upon legalised exploitation.

The malloos are to-day being taught how contribution follows upon infringements of moral laws. Bankrupt Russia, Japan on the verge of a like predicament, South Africa in the depths of depression, the shaking of the foundations which maintain the national fabric of Great Britain, provide object-lessons which give force to the mandate: "Thou shalt not kill"—even though the Silling be glorified by the name of War. So, too, before the crisis in America and its aftermath have disappeared nations will recognise the wisdom of enforcing the injunction: "Thou shalt not steal"—even though the stealing be termed Protection and have the sanction that attaches to the private ownership of the soil.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

PORTLAND CEMENT.

10 Casks of 50 lbs. each, \$5.00 per Cask.

SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Supplied by Messrs. E. S. KADOORIE & Co. Corrected to noon; later alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence," page 5.

STOCKS.	NO. OF SHARES.	VALUE.	PAID UP.	POSITION AS PER LAST REPORT.	AT WORKING ACCOUNT.	LAST DIVIDEND.	APPROXIMATE RETURN AT YEARLY DIV.	CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
BANKS.								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation (new)	20,000	\$125	\$125	\$1,000,000	\$1,797,167	\$1.15/- for 1 year ending 30.6.07 @ ex	5 %	\$720 \$715 new issue London 279
National Bank of China, Limited	40,000	\$125	\$125	\$1,750,000	\$2,100,000	\$2 (London 3/6) for 1903		\$51
MARINE INSURANCES.								
Canton Insurance Office, Limited	1,000	\$150	\$150	\$1,500,000	none	\$20 for 1906	8 1/2 %	\$245
North China Insurance Company, Limited	11,000	\$15	\$15	\$1,650,000	Tls. 204 4	Final of 7/6 per share making in all 15/- for 1906-Tls. 205	6 %	Tls. 89 sellers
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited	2,400	\$250	\$250	\$600,000	\$1,460,400	Final of \$12 making \$42 for 1905 and interim of \$3 to 1906	12 1/2 %	1820
Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited	4,000	\$100	\$100	\$400,000	\$391,520	\$1 for year ending 31.12.05		\$145 buyers
Do. (new)	4,000	\$100	\$100	\$400,000	\$391,520	\$2 and bonus \$2 for 1905	8 1/2 %	\$94 buyers
FIRE INSURANCES.								
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	20,000	\$100	\$100	\$2,000,000	\$362,080	\$40 for 1905	12 1/2 %	\$330
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	8,000	\$250	\$250	\$2,000,000	\$435,236	\$1 for 1906	6 1/2 %	\$15
China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited	30,000	\$25	\$25	\$750,000	Nil	\$1 for year ending 30.6.1907	10 1/2 %	\$38 buyers
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	20,000	\$50	\$50	\$1,000,000	\$27,101	\$1 for 1st half-year ending 30.6.07	6 1/2 %	\$29
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$15	\$15	\$300,000	\$27,101	\$1 for 1st half-year ending 30.6.07	6 1/2 %	\$29
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Preferred)	60,000	\$5	\$5	\$300,000	\$3,694	\$1 for 1906 @ ex 2/2= \$2.24 per share	3 1/2 %	\$41 \$29
Do. (Deferred)	60,000	\$5	\$5	\$300,000	\$3,694	Interim of Tls. 14 for account 1907	12 1/2 %	Tls. 44 buyers
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	100,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 5,000	Tls. 13,327	Interim of 1/- (Coupon No. 8, for a/c 1907	12 1/2 %	Tls. 50 sellers
Do. (Preference)	100,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 5,000	Tls. 13,327	\$1.00 for year ending 30.4.1907	4 1/2 %	\$22 buyers
"Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Limited	2,000,000	\$10	\$10	\$20,000,000	\$139	\$0.50 for year ending 30.4.1907	4 1/2 %	\$11 buyers
"Star" Ferry Company, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$10	\$100,000	\$139	Final of Tls. 2 making Tls. 6 for 1906	12 1/2 %	Tls. 47 sellers
Taku Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	10,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 500,000	\$139	\$8 for year ending 31.12.06	8 %	\$100 buyers
REFINERIES.								
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	20,000	\$100	\$100	\$2,000,000	\$9,218	\$1 for 1907		\$10 buyers
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000	\$100	\$100	\$700,000	\$9,218	Tls. 4 (8 %) for year ending 31.8.06	5 %	Tls. 80 buyers
Perak Sugar Cultivation Company, Limited	7,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 350,000	\$9,218			
MINING.								
Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Ltd.	1,000,000	\$1	\$1	\$1,000,000	\$11,556	Final of 1/6 (No. 9) for 1907	7 1/2 %	Tls. 16
Ramb Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited	50,000	\$1	\$1	\$50,000	\$11,556	No. 12 of 1/- = 48 cents		\$81
DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.								
Fenwick (Geo.) & Co., Limited	18,000	\$25	\$25	\$450,000	\$10,335	\$1.75 for year ending 31.12.06	12 1/2 %	\$14
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$50	\$50	\$500,000	\$3,047	Interim of \$2 for six months ending June 30th 1907	6 1/2 %	\$56 old buyers \$54 new buyers
Do. (new)	10,000	\$50	\$50	\$500,000	\$3,047	\$4 for 1st half-year ending June 30th, 1907	8 1/2 %	\$56 sales
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Ltd.	10,000	\$50	\$50	\$500,000	\$491,580	Tls. 3 for year ending 30th April 1907	4 1/2 %	Tls. 72
Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd.	15,700	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 1,570,000	Tls. 10,459	Interim of Tls. 8 for account 1907	8 1/2 %	Tls. 20 1/2 sales
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited	36,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 3,600,000	Tls. 23,117			
LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.								
Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.	25,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 2,500,000	Tls. 3,388	Tls. 6 for 14 1/2 months ending 28.2.07	6 %	Tls. 105
Astor Hotel Company, Limited (Shanghai)	10,000	\$25	\$25	\$250,000	\$10,908	\$2 for year ending 30.6.07	10 1/2 %	\$203 sellers
Central Stores, Limited	50,123	\$15	\$15	\$751,845	\$9,178	\$1.80 for 1906	13 %	\$14
Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited	12,000	\$50	\$50	\$600,000	\$10,925	\$4 for 1st half-year ending 30.6.07	10 %	\$100 buyers
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$100	\$100	\$1,000,000	\$56,218	Interim of \$3 1/2 for half year ending 30.6.07	7 1/2 %	\$95
Humphreys Estate & Finance Company, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$10	\$100,000	\$11,567	80 cents for 1906	7 1/2 %	\$104
Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited	6,000	\$50	\$50	\$300,000	\$1,089	\$2 1/2 for 1906	7 %	\$35 sellers
Shanghai Land Investment Company, Limited	78,000	Tls. 10	Tls. 10	Tls. 780,000	Tls. 61,978	Interim of Tls. 3 for account 1907	7 1/2 %	Tls. 101 sales
Wong Point Building Company, Limited	12,500	\$50	\$50	\$625,000	\$1,519	Interim of \$2 for half year ending June 30th	8 1/2 %	\$48 buyers
COTTON MILLS.								
Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Ltd.	15,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 750,000	Tls. 64,986	Tls. 10 for year ended 31.10.1906		Tls. 53 buyers
Hongkong Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.	15,000	\$10	\$10	\$150,000	\$14,269	50 cents for year ending 31.7.07	5 %	\$10
International Cotton Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	10,000	Tls. 75	Tls. 75	Tls. 750,000	Tls. 85,519	Tls. 6 for year ended 30.9.06 (8 %)		Tls. 50
Lap-kin-mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 800,000	Tls. 31,469	Tls. 8 for 1906		Tls. 70 sellers
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Company, Limited	2,000	Tls. 500	Tls. 500	Tls. 1,000,000	Tls. 50,663	Tls. 50 for 1906		Tls. 270 sellers
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Limited	8,604	\$12 1/2	\$12 1/2	\$107,550	\$638	1/3 per share for 1906	9 %	\$61
Campbell, Moore & Co., Limited	1,000	\$10	\$10	\$10,000	\$638	\$3 for 1905		\$10 buyers
China-Borneo Company, Limited	10,000	\$12	\$12	\$120,000	Nil	\$1 for 1904		\$10 buyers
China Flour Mill Co., Limited	4,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 200,000	Tls. 889	Final of Tls. 5 making Tls. 10 for 1905		\$16
China Light and Power Company, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$10	\$100,000	\$25,000	60 cents for year ended 28.2.06		\$94 sales
Do. special shares	10,000	\$1	\$1	\$10,000	\$25,000	80 cents for 1906	8 1/2 %	\$17 buyers
China Provident Loan & Mortgage Company, Ltd.	100,000	\$10	\$10	\$1,000,000	\$2,974	\$1.30 for year ending 31.7.07	7 1/2 %	\$114
Dairy Farm Company, Limited	25,000	\$7 1/2	\$7 1/2	\$187,500	\$11,002	Interim of 50 cents per share for a/c 1907	11 1/2 %	\$21 buyers
Green Island Cement Company, Limited	400,000	\$10	\$10	\$4,000,000	\$11,002	\$2 1/2 for year ending 28.2.07	6 1/2 %	\$15
Hall & Holt, Limited	21,000	\$20	\$20	\$420,000	\$2,953	1 1/2 per share for year ending 28.2.07	9 1/2 %	\$240
Hongkong Electric Company, Limited	60,000	\$10	\$10	\$600,000	\$4,361	Interim of \$4 for 1 year ending June 30th 1907	8 %	\$25
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited	5,000	\$25	\$25	\$125,000	\$4,361	Interim of 80 cents per share for a/c 1907	9 1/2 %	Tls. 350 sales
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	50,000	\$10	\$10	\$500,000	\$27,603	Final of Tls. 7 1/2 and bonus of Tls. 2 1/2 making in all Tls. 32 1/2 for 1907	8 %	\$13
Mataschappij tot Mijn, Bosch en Landbouwexploitatie in Langkat, Limited	25,000	Ga. 100	Ga. 100	Tls. 2,500,000	Tls. 10,374	\$1 per share for period from 15th Oct. to 30th Apr. 07		\$5 buyers
Peak Tramways Company, Limited	25,000	\$10	\$10	\$250,000	\$2,655	None		Tls. 107 buyers
Peak Tramways Company (new)	50,000	\$10	\$10	\$500,000	\$2,655	Interim of Tls. 3 1/2 for account 1907	7 1/2 %	Tls. 45 sellers
Philippine Company, Limited	67,500	\$10	\$10	\$675,000	Tls. 3,554	Tls. 4 for 1905		Tls. 60
Shanghai Gas Company, Limited	24,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 1,200,000	Tls. 7,843	Final of Tls. 5 and Tls. 10 for 1906		Tls. 112 buyers
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.	5,400	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 270,000	Tls. 85,593	Interim of 15/- for account 1907 (old)		Tls. 335 buyers
Shanghai Pulp and Paper Company, Limited	4,500	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 450,000	\$41,034	Interim of 11/3 for account 1907 (new)		\$20
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Company, Limited	30,000	Tls. 20	Tls. 20	Tls. 600,000	\$478	40 cents for year ending 31.5.07	6 1/2 %	\$6 sellers
Shanghai Waterworks Company, Limited	16,350	\$20	\$20	\$327,000	Tls. 201	Tls. 6 1/2 for year ending 30.4.07		Tls. 97
South China Morning Post, Limited	6,000	\$25	\$25	\$150,000	\$349	First year		\$101 buyers
Steam Laundry Company, Limited	20,000	\$5	\$5	\$100,000	\$1,360	80 cents on 9,000 ord. shares and \$19.80 on 100 Founders shares for 91 and 31.5.07	8 %	\$10
Tientsin Waterworks Company, Limited	2,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 200,000	\$1,360	Interim of 30 cents for account 1907	7 %	\$10 buyers
Union Waterworks Company, Limited	50,000	\$10	\$10	\$500,000	\$1,360	Final of 30 cts. making 80 cts. for the year ended 30th June, 1906		\$5 buyers
United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$10	\$100,000	\$1,360			
Watson, (A. S.) & Co., Limited	90,000	\$10	\$10	\$900,000	\$1,360			
William Powell, Limited	15,000	\$10	\$10	\$150,000	\$1,360			

Mails.



THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

STEAM FOR STRAITS, CEYLON, AUSTRALIA, INDIA, ADEN, EGYPT, MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, PLYMOUTH AND LONDON.

(Through Bills of Lading issued for BATAVIA, PERSIAN GULF, CONTINENTAL, AMERICA and SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.)

THE Steamship

"DELTA," Captain C. L. Daniel, carrying His Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from this for BOMBAY, &c., on SATURDAY, the 28th December, at Noon, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports, in connection with the Company's S.S. *India*, 8,000 tons, from Colombo, Passengers' accommodation in which vessel is secured before departure from Hongkong.

Silk and Valuables, all Cargo for France, and Tea for London (under arrangement) will be transhipped at Colombo into the Mail steamer proceeding direct to Marseilles and London, other Cargo for London, &c., will be conveyed from Bombay by the R.M.S. *Oriana*, due in London on 8th February, 1908.

Parcels will be received at this Office until 4 P.M. the day before sailing. The Contents and Value of all Packages are required.

For further-Particulars, apply to E. A. HEWETT, Superintendent.

Hongkong, 14th December, 1907.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES FRENCH MAIL STEAMERS.



STEAM FOR SAIGON, SINGAPORE, BATAVIA, COLOMBO, CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, INDIA, ADEN, DJIBOUTI, EGYPT, MARSEILLES, LONDON.

HAVER, BORDEAUX, MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA PORTS.

The S.S. "ARMAND BEHIO," Captain Guionnet, will be despatched for MARSEILLES on TUESDAY, the 7th January, 1908, at 1 P.M.

This steamer connects at Colombo with the Australian line S.S. *Ville de la Gironde* bound for Marseilles via Bombay and Aden.

Passage tickets and through Bills of Lading issued for above ports.

Cargo also booked for principal places in Europe.

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The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT

(ESTABLISHED 1881)

NEW SERIES No. 5852

第三十二月一十年三十三緒光

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1907

五拜禮 號七十二月二十年三十三緒光

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BIRTHS.

On 18th November, at London, wife of Lieut. Col. O. D. Buxton, Chief of Police, Shanghai, son.
On December 4, 1907, at Peking, the wife of C. C. KIRKE, of a son.
On December 15, 1907, at Shanghai, born to Rev. and Mrs. E. Pilley of Huchow, a son, JOHN ALLEN.
On December 16, 1907, at Shanghai, the wife of PERCY A. MACLEAN, of a son.
On December 19, 1907, at Shanghai, the wife of WALTER COX, of a son.
On December 20, 1907, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. C. L. SKITZ, a son, Clayton Leonard.

MARRIAGES.

On December 16, 1907, at Shanghai, GAVIN LINDSAY, son of the Rev. Wm. Campbell, Otago, Kilmarlock, to ELISIE FORBES, third daughter of John F. Cate, Glasgow.
On December 20, 1907, at Shanghai, HENRY WILLIAM DAINY, of Colombo, son of William Dainy, of Westgate, Essex, to DAISY KATE, second daughter of the late Robert Law, Shanghai.
On December 21, 1907, at Shanghai, ANDRÉAS HANSEN ERIKSEN, to EDITH MARV, only daughter of the late William Fowler, of Shanghai. No cards.

DEATHS.

On November 2, 1907, at Lowell, Mass., U.S.A., in his 85th year, Mrs. SARAH H. DANFORTH, the beloved mother of A. W. Danforth, of Shanghai.
On December 16, 1907, at Shanghai, WILLIAM HOPKINS of Manchester, in his 43rd year.
On December 18, 1907, at Shanghai, CHARLES FREDERICK MOULLE, second son of Bishop Moule, in his 40th year.
On December 19, at Shanghai, CAPITULINA DA SILVA LOPES, the beloved wife of Tobias Maria Lopes, in her 65th year.

The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.
ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.
HONGKONG, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1907.

CHINESE FOR THE PHILIPPINES.

(21st December.)

In spite of the fact that many of his political friends have advised him to withdraw his proposed Bill for the admission of Chinese into the Philippines as agricultural labourers, it is stated in the *Cablenews-American* that Paterno insists on defending his project. He explains that he believes it to be a very beneficial measure for the people at large. He realizes that it is an unpopular Bill with the working classes and expects to be made the target for the ire of these labourers and their unions. Paterno points out that in Manila this need of labourers is not realized as the city becomes a rendezvous for large numbers of people from the neighbouring provinces, but in Mindanao, Mindoro, Paraguana and even in the northern part of Luzon there are vast sections of the country awaiting cultivation and settlement. He believes that the Chinese and a half millions of people in the Philippines are insufficient for the country and

advocates the crossing of Filipino with other races to invigorate the Filipino blood, and he maintains that the best cross is the Chinese because the Chinese mestizo have made the best Filipinos in politics as well as in industry and commerce.

WHERE DOES BRITAIN STAND?

(23rd December.)

There seems to be a disposition among a certain portion of the Press to belittle and pooh-pooh the questions affected by the West River patrol service as of merely academic interest. For the moment the matter is not of so great or immediate difficulty as even to suggest the possibility of a *cut-de-sac* being entered, but there encompasses it on all sides the danger that the best meant efforts of a friendly Power to save China's reputation as a political machine may be misconstrued and thereby lead to a rupture. So far as we can gather from the trend of the Home papers, Great Britain has not the remotest intention to perform the disagreeable duties of winter watchman longer than she can help. And we may take it for a moral certainty that if the Imperial Chinese Government demand the restoration of their sovereign rights over the internal riverways of the two Kwang Provinces the British mosquito flotilla would be off and doing bright and early. It is merely a matter of convenience that the British fleet is to be seen on the Canton delta at all, a sort of forcible rider to a motion already adopted that the placid and waterway robberies along the riverine districts were a disgrace to civilisation and a standing reproach to the Chinese Government. We have spoken of China's sovereign rights, but it must be kept well in mind that we do not hold for a second that these have been in any respect infringed. As we have read from day to day, the people have been holding mass meetings up and down the coast, protesting against the action of the British in taking over the control of the police patrol system of the river. Now, mass meetings are all very well in their way; mass meetings which afford five or six hours' squabbling are in their own fashion a development of the safety-valve principle, and should certainly be supported by the active propagandist who does not desire that the proletariat should inquire too closely into his goings. But how comes it about that at one of the busiest seasons of the year the Chinese merchants and shopkeepers find time to linger over the fragrant tea cup and sip nectar and resolution at the same breath? Since the formation of the Canton-Hankow Railway Company the principal business of Canton has been the holding of mass meetings, which have proved as futile in their results as in their perverted resolutions. Granting, then, for the sake of argument, that the British flag as the official protector of the police in South China has, shall we say, no *locus standi*, what benefit would the Chinese merchants confer on themselves were they to boycott British goods, entering Canton? Yet that suggestion was seriously made and seconded at a mass meeting the other day. Then, again, some misguided creature with a twist in his mathematical apparatus, proposed that the Chinese should do away with foreign importers by replacing the present fleet with one floated with Chinese money and operated by Chinese labour. We do not stay to consider the relative importance such a scheme might possess with regard to the future of the riverine traffic, beguiles that is beside the point. All we would observe is that it would be extremely pleasant for the Chinese shareholders of the Chinese steamboat company to learn one fine morning that their first class fleet of native vessels had been pillaged and looted from Wuchow to Canton, and that the Chinese Government professed itself unable to offer the slightest assistance in tracing the marauders, while as for compensation the idea was preposterous. The fact is, the whole subject is bound up in the question whether honest, legitimate trade shall be exposed any longer to the periodic exactions of hordes of unmitigated and audacious river-rats which abound in the Canton delta. Great Britain which has a preponderating share in the steamship as well as in the river trade has declared at long length a decided answer in the negative and to Great Britain belongs the credit of illustrating to the Chinese the inevitable result of procrastinations, evasions, and appeals.

EXTRADITION CASES.

(24th December.)

Few laymen will have the temerity to dispute the repeated assertions of the judges of the Supreme Court that their Lordships are, like plain, ordinary humdrum individuals overworked. Everybody is content to believe that he is pulsating at an energy developed after the pattern of the machines whose delayed advent was the subject of one of Sam Weller's lamentations. From the factory-hand, whose work begins when many people are just making up their minds to retire for the night to the latest candidate for honours in the "hopper success" all are obsessed with the idea that they are a living personification of the verb "to hustle," and as no good object is likely to be derived from any attempt to bring them true enlightenment then we may leave them to themselves. But when the judges of the highest Court in the Colony join in the general cry it is highly essential that their protest should be seriously considered and gives that importance which it warrants. Is the calendar of the Supreme Court swollen to unusual proportions, or are the petty Summary Jurisdiction cases growing in numbers? There is no evidence to that

effect either one way or the other. Day after day our representative who is deputed to chronicle the doings of the judges at the Supreme Court returns with the answer that there are no cases, or none of any interest. And that would appear to be the condition of things prevailing for weeks at a time, the gloomy Courts being left to the shadows and mysteries of dead and gone litigants whose fatal fascination of the red ribbon has led to their utter abandonment. That aside, there seems to us to be a class of cases which, if it was ever decided to lighten the labour of the Courts generally, should come under a special branch of the criminal code, and be dealt with separately and apart from any reference to the merely vulgar misdemeanour of street-ransacking. At most every other day our news columns are bedecked with the reports of extradition cases "proceeding," and some weeks later we read under "Canton Day by Day" that the accused who were charged with being concerned in an armed robbery and had been extradited to Canton from Hongkong, on *prima facie* evidence, being produced, have been beheaded on the execution ground, in presence of a large concourse of people. Extradition cases are notably difficult, for there is the ever-present danger that an innocent gesture may, in the light of later events, cost a man's life in the end. Here in Hongkong there must necessarily always be a floating, which is to say transient, population of 10,000 to 20,000 per day, and many of these, unless faces and physiognomies count for nothing, are so closely allied to the bestial that it is difficult to say where the difference lies. These extradition courts would have to be presided over by men who were something more than mere machines and something less than indulgent parents. If there are to be any changes in the administration of justice in Hongkong during the ensuing year, then the question of changing the register of cases coming under the Extradition Act and giving it a position all its own should certainly appeal to those whose work is connected with the Supreme Court.

XMAS DAY.

To-morrow brings with it Christmas Day in its train once more, and again we stand in amazement at the little that has been done to add distinction to the fastly-fading year notwithstanding the flutterings of doves and beatings of the wind that have been recorded. At Christmaside it is usual to hint or to hope that the world has grown a little better than it was, that people have become more humanised, and that the approach of the millennium may almost be divined. But it is really a waste of time to pursue that topic, for the world is probably not much worse to-day than it was in the Never-Never times when "Caine" came to grief over the question of unlimited speed over the new automobile track. So far as Hongkong is concerned the fact that money is tight, and that merchants are displaying less and less inclination to extend their credit dealing or accommodate past customers, are factors which have to be borne in mind when the festivities of the season are being considered. Many who are paid on a sterling basis will be chuckling over their good fortune in getting—for some occult reason which they do not stop to consider—something for nothing when it comes to opening the annual bazaar. As usual the public offices will be closed while the other places of public resort will be wide open to all and sundry, who have the necessary fee of introduction. Naturally, while one section of the community will be regretting the fabulous days of their youth when snow and mistletoe were the chief delights of Christmas—unlike the present dead, dull, dog days of blighting fog as recorded by worthy old Reuter—there will also be a very considerable and growing number of residents whose heads-deal of a Christmas holiday will be made up of yachting tours and summer sunshine. At all events, Christmas comes as a welcome break, and if it has arrived at express speed this year then that is due to ourselves. There will be no issue of the *Hongkong Telegraph* to-morrow, the next number being that published on Boxing Day.

EUROPEAN ASIATIC COALING FACILITIES.

(26th December.)

In concise language Reuter has made the Far East acquainted with the fact that there is a strike—proceeding at Port Said among the fellaten who act as the coolies of that Egyptian port. As to the character of the situation, the cause, which led to the withdrawal of labour and the demands of the strikers, we are, perforce, utterly in the dark, although it must be confessed that many merchants in Hongkong would prefer to know something of the ins and outs of the position rather than to total up the dispossessions of the Continental Almanach de Gotha. While we may decline to assume the mantle of the quidnunc in this connection there are certain features about a strike or labour disruption at Port Said which are of interest alike to Europe and Asia, and are possibly of more importance to the countries East and West of Suez than to the land of the Pharaohs. In the first place, Port Said is the connecting link between the old and the new in the world's history; it is one of the principal coaling stations in the world, where at all hours of the day and night the Leviathans of the Indian Ocean may be seen absorbing immense quantities of nutriment for the next stage of the journey. It need not be asserted that at Port Said

voluntarily flung aside the extensive trade of coal-bunkering over some petty matter of disagreement, she would never regain her present position. As a matter of fact, how Port Said manages to retain her character for swift bunkering, seeing that no facilities appear to be offered by the port authorities for the speedy loading or unloading of steamers, is not easily ascertainable. The contractors do not seem to consider it possible to amalgamate and by waiving part of their huge profits accumulate sufficient to justify the incorporation of a dock trust, which would be intended primarily for the accommodation of vessels in want of coal. It is sometime now since we heard tell of that wonderful Franco-Pays-Bas project to establish a series of coaling stations which would enable vessels hitherto to Great Britain to discharge their depleted bunkers without relying upon the assistance or consideration of the United Kingdom. And it was no airy, fantastical dream either, but a practicable scheme which is in course of being carried into effect. Under this non-red coaling route scheme, a vessel would coal at any of the Southern ports of France—at Marseilles for example. The next stoppage, for coal would be made at Jibouti, on the African coast, near the island of Aden; the third would be at Sabang, in Pulo Wais, some few hundred miles off Penang; and the fourth would be somewhere along the southern coast of Indo-China. The name of the place has been given on several occasions, although, for the moment, it escapes the memory, and the last report on the subject was that a French marquis who had qualified as a civil engineer, along with a number of others, interested in this Pickwickian game of international pinpricks, were busily engaged in laying their plans for the erection of a great Far Eastern coaling depot. That the scheme cannot be described as being entirely in *nubibus* may be inferred from the fact that two years ago there were many sailors who predicted that the Russian fleet would use these hideous depots in preference to the recognised stages of Port Said, Colombo, Singapore and Japan. If Port Said throws away its title to being an important coaling station there is the distinct possibility that the dreams of our alien competitors may become material facts. There is another point—why not eliminate all danger from causeless restraints of trade by doing away with 'coolie labour'? The scene at Port Said when a liner is coaling savours of the infernal pit of the Inferno; the air reeks with oil fumes and the atmosphere is thick with black dust. Everybody on board is in the depths of misery and despair, yet all this could be remedied were the authorities to require that the coal contractors should install automatic coaling machines, which would add to the facilities of the port and lead the coolies to a proper realisation of their position.

UNDER MATRIMONIAL COLOURS.

While the majority of people are quite content to make their own friendships and to break with undesirable acquaintances when circumstances seem to warrant such a step, there appears to be an enormous number of staid, gloomy, morose Englishmen and women who find it impossible to gratify their real affection for humanity. Gifted with a gregarious nature, they are yet compelled to stand aside while the flighty little miss and the harum-scarum youth, without brains, depth, or character, are welcomed as fresh draughts of ozone. And so the great-hearted ones, cursed with shyness, or hampered by an unfortunate tongue and a vile pun-prone manner, walk along in the shadows, eating their hearts out in vain regrets. Many astute adventurers long since realised the possibilities of such a condition of things, and the matrimonial agency was the direct outcome of the idea to make the human "pariahs" pay for a chance of doubtful bliss. But the matrimonial agency got into bad odour, somehow or another, it was discovered that the rich heiress, the languishing school girl with £10,000 a year in her own right when she reached the age of 18, the lonesome widow who wanted a gentleman and a husband to look after her huge estates; the domesticated creature who wanted sympathy; the sportingly who wanted a male affinity to accompany her on a big game hunt while she paid all expenses, all these types were embodied in the young and dashing, sedate and respectable, accomplished and domesticated female who acted as a sort of sister to the proprietor of the matrimonial agency. All the proprietor had to do was to introduce the parties, charge the stranger whatever sum he seemed able to afford, and confidently leave the result to the stern common sense of his lady assistant. And so the matrimonial agency; that is, to say the bourgeois, wedded-while-you-wait affair, died a natural death. The aristocratic go-between is still making a livelihood out of the introduction business. After all, however, the lonely spinster and the man who hoped to make a fortune by marrying money felt that the disappearance of the matrimonial agent was not altogether an unmixed blessing; and after a time we had reading clubs, circular correspondence letters, and what not, formed all over the country. The late Sir Isaac Pitman recognised the value of these media for spreading a knowledge of phonography among the people, and, like the shrewd man he was, these clubs and societies were caught under his wing and he obtained an endless chain of advertisements of the most practical and valuable character, without spending a shilling. Now it would appear that old-fashioned agencies have had their day. People are tired of writing letters and exchanging

that no paper would publish; they are tired of sending letters in impossible French to half-educated Bretons who return the compliment by deluging the Post Office with letters in alleged English, in the hope that the error, if perceived, will be corrected. As Mr. Joseph Chamberlain used to say in his palmy days, *Nous avons changé tout cela*. Nowadays, it is patriotism and imperialism that hold the floor; we Anglo-Saxons are the finest pebbles on the beach, and there are some of us who utterly fail to understand what necessity there ever was for creation of the miserable alien, who cannot speak the language of heaven—a diluted Scotch with a flavour of American bitters. But the foreigner having been permitted to land on the earth it behoves the English-speaking community to stand together shoulder to shoulder and blade to blade, so that Burns's wish that "manjo man the world over, shall brethren be as a that," may become an accomplished fact. A true Anglo-Saxon could hardly be persuaded to call a dago his "brother," so that any danger from the entrance of interlopers would be averted. The latest of these "friends and friendships" schemes is just our old "friend" the matrimonial agency under new colours. And although it purports to hail from London we shall be much surprised if on investigation it is not found to be a Yankee notion, and a capital notion too, for it costs no money to start, the members' contributions keep it going, and the self-appointed officials are sublimely free from any responsibility whatsoever. From some leaflets which have come to us by the gross, as if we were likely to become hawkers of such literature, it would appear that you may become a member of the Correspondence Club or the English-Speakers' Link. The difference is considerable. If you wish to play fast and loose with the members, then you join the Club, preserve your anonymity, and pay 10s. 6d. a year subscription. But if you have no objection to disclosing your name and rank, together with the address of your castle and town residence, then you will become a Link, at the moderate charge of 2s. 6d. per annum. In connection with the Club, the members always preserving their anonymity, give in most cases a brief description of themselves, and they are a lovely lot. The ladies are ticketed "B234" or whatever the number may be, while the gentlemen are known as the "A's." We have hinted our suspicion that this "friends and friendships" movement is a matrimonial scheme in disguise. Let us look at the statements which the candid "B's" write around their personalities. To begin with it may be stated that they are all slim and active, all of medium height, all interested in country life, all fond of music, nature, pictures, reading—(does that include the household bills?)—sketching, all on the verge of the thirties, and all highly respectable, most of them having been orphaned since their parents shuffled off this mortal coil. Who could resist this lady's appeal:—"Yorkshire woman; refined; broad-minded; homely, happy, and hopeful disposition; sympathetic; love for children, home and country life; considered to be frank, unconventional, and original. No near relatives. Would be very glad to hear from or to make the acquaintance of any A's or B's who would appreciate a genuine faithful friend." Who could disregard that? Then there is this wail from Devonshire:—"Widow; 36; brown hair and eyes; medium height; loves animals, cycling, boating, theatres, literature (Carlyle, Omar Khayyam, Victor Hugo, and not Correll and Boothby); travel, and adventures; unconventional, agnostic; phenomenally broad-minded. Would welcome correspondence from anybody who would make me laugh, but not from any religious or teetotal personages. Am sympathetic, and intensely lonely mentally; would know how to value a genuine friend." Surely that describes the lady for whom half the bachelors in Hongkong are on the prowl. As for the gentlemen, they are all Solons with the features of Apollo. One writes from China to say that he is "27; M.D.; very sympathetic; refined; capable of an honourable and sincere friendship." Let us wish him good luck. An Irishman thinks it is not good for man to be alone, and wishes some fair B to convince him of the fact. The list is endless, but these extracts will show how far the scheme is removed from the ordinary matrimonial agency. But as it is all done in the name of Empire and fraternity and as there is a possibility that the game may interest the players there is just the chance that it may succeed, although we would not advise our readers to become enraptured with the prospects outlined.

TYPHOON WARNING.

The telegrams quoted below have been received by the American Consulate-General from the Manila Observatory:—
December 20, 1907, at 5 p.m.
Typhoon seems to have been filling up since yesterday.

At about six o'clock last Friday evening the fire bell at the Central and No. 5 Police Stations clanged out. Inquiries elicited the information that the outbreak was at 26, Graham Street (third floor). The city brigade turned out sharply, but before they arrived on the scene the fire had been subdued. A careless maid servant, it is alleged, is blamed for the fire, which consumed about \$30 worth of property before it was eventually extinguished. On her way to the kitchen, it appears, holding a lighted candle in one hand, she fell up against a bed and set the curtain ablaze. This went up in a minute and spread to a partition, the bed taking fire later. The inmates of the house lost no time in packing the boxes and suppressing it before the flames arrived. The building was not insured.

A WUCHOW FRACAS.

BRITISH MEN-OF-WAR MEN ARRESTED.

BOUND WITH ROPE AND DETAINED IN CHINESE YAMEN.

We understand that H.M.'s torpedo boat No. 36 arrived at Wuchow on the 19th instant and made a stay of four days, at that port, leaving on the 23rd instant for Samahai. Torpedo boat No. 36 was due there on the 24th and H.M.S. *Albatross* will probably follow her in a day or two.

An authentic report has reached us that a disturbance, trivial in itself, but likely to provoke a lot of comment from the Chinese, took place on Friday evening. It is as well to give the true particulars of the case as the Chinese have absolutely distorted the facts. On the 20th instant, a few black-jackets, or "home-made" officers from the British torpedo boat No. 36 went ashore and as usual met at Kee Cheung's, the local compradore. This compradore, in addition to keeping a shop, has a "bar" where he dispenses liquors, not always of the most reputed brands to all the jolly tars that wend their way thither. On the evening in question, the men from the torpedo boat were having a dinner at Kee Cheung's when a dispute arose over the payment for some refreshment, the black-jackets insisting that they had paid cash for the goods supplied, before receiving them, and the compradores alleging that the account had not been settled. A few hot words were exchanged, from what could be gathered, and it appeared the compradore was gently pushed out of the room. Meanwhile a crowd had gathered in the street and the native police were sent for and, without proceeding to investigate, rushed into the "bar" and attempted to arrest all the men of war's men. This the black-jackets naturally resented, and a scuffle ensued. A further reinforcement of police arrived and by sheer weight of number overpowered two of the British seamen and, after binding their hands and feet with rope, had them conveyed to the Magistrate's yamen in the city, instead of the Police pontoon. The other present had managed to escape and got aboard their ship where the affair was reported. A party of local civilians, hearing of the row, proceeded to the house of the compradore and found a huge crowd congregated. The crowd was most docile and made no attempt to interfere with the foreigners, who entered the compradore's store to see what damage had been effected. The party of civilians who had arrived on the scene, about half an hour after the alleged "affray," could see hardly any sign of damages. Notwithstanding which the compradore claimed that \$400 of his goods had been destroyed, but he could show nothing in proof of his statement. The incident was reported to the British Consul, who communicated with the City Magistrate, asking for the release of the two sailors from the yamen and stating that an investigation would be held into the matter. The two sailors were not released until the following morning and had spent the night in the city yamen in great discomfort. The matter is now being investigated. Some of the local agitators, hearing of the row, proceeded to a hostile feeling against the British gunboat men, and are making use of this fracas to their own advantage by exaggerating the facts, and this demagogic unless suppressed by the officials may lead to further developments. Shore leave has been temporarily stopped by the Commanders of the gunboats until the matter is definitely settled.

As remarked at the outset the incident in itself is trivial, and the affair would not have reached its present crisis but for the unwarrantable interference of the native police and their attempt to summarily arrest all the British seamen present.

The compradore's claim, so it is stated, is a "bogus one," and there is so question that he attempted to "squeeze" his guests by wanting them to pay a second time for refreshment that had already been paid for. It is a great pity that this incident occurred, but in justice to the British sailors it is as well to give the above particulars as an offset to the incorrect statements that are being freely circulated, we are informed, by a few agitators at Wuchow who are seeking to create international complications.

CONSUL-GENERAL IN CONFERENCE WITH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Our Canton correspondent informs us that the British Consul-General at Canton paid a flying visit to Hongkong the other day, returning to Canton the same evening. While in Hongkong, Consul-General Macleod called on the Commander-in-Chief on board the flagship and presumably held a conference with Sir Arthur Moore. What the subject of the conference was, it was, of course, impossible to learn, but that it might have had some connection with the Wuchow affray is a theory that is faintly guessed at.

NOTORIOUS ROBBER KILLED.

TERRORISM AT SHEK-LOONG ENDED.

[From a Correspondent.]

Canton, 20th December.

A notorious burglar, Wen Mun-yang, by name, has been the terror of all towns and villages along the East River. A reward of \$1,000 was offered by the military authorities and the gentry for his capture. But the marauder, being assisted by a large gang, frequently made his escape to Hongkong, or Macao with perfect ease. His movements were so changing and elusive that the reward has been issued for years without any effect. On the 13th inst., Wei-yuan Lau Chiu-ching, a magistrate, received information that Wen was to arrive at Shek-Loong from Hongkong that very day. Accordingly the 6th Battalion under Mr. Lau was ordered to proceed thither to surround and capture the burglar by following him up to his lair. He was seized after a desperate struggle, having been mortally wounded by several shots from the "thieves" and died a few hours afterwards. His corpse was subsequently examined by the magistrates. The rejoicings of the inhabitants of Shek-Loong on that day after receiving the news of his death were so great that many people offered prayers to the gods. H.E. Vicary, Shanghai, received a report from Mr. Lau yesterday, requesting an order for the despatch of the corpse and the distribution of the cash reward.

OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER

HOPES AND FEARS IN A HONGKONG HOSPITAL

For at least ten days prior to Christmas the acute observer might have noticed that the air of the big hospital was ruffled. Old unregenerate patients, who usually listened with pity and scorn to the advice of feigning medical cods, suddenly became morbidly attentive to the most casual suggestion. The recognized leaders of the long ward-formal secret cabals, which met at irregular intervals all day long and discussed the situation with a breathless energy which would have made the fortune of many a lesser ruffian on the boards. Now and again rumours were circulated of "boys" in sometimes they came through the "boys" in attendance, and sometimes they simply floated through the air, non-digible bubbles of fancy. Of course, the idea of the promoters was that somebody in authority might be induced to contradict elaborate or confirm those rumours, but it was not so.

And now, it may be asked, why all the commotion and furtive gatherings in the hospital, especially among the third-class patients? What could induce a man who had renounced the world, its ways and its tragedies, to live contented lives on beds of ease in a public institution, what could have re-lighted in the lamp of worldly desire? It may seem ridiculous, but the whole question had reference to our Christmas Dinner.

It had been reported at one time that the patients under the control of the hospital were to be regaled with music and songs to be given before the Dinner. The grey beards groaned in their hearts, but managed to look philosophical. Then that suggestion was knocked on the head, the benevolent party of musicians who were desirous of taking advantage of a few derelicts in hospital having hit upon a gang of innocent deep-sea mariners who thought that a musical galaxy meant far more to be followed by the usual "rough house." Those who had hoped to offer their services as Soloists in the glorious expectation that they would be invited to the Dinner found themselves once again on the broad of their backs. It all depended on the will of the doctors and if all tales be true a cold, unfeeling lot they must be. Every question they asked had a deeper significance than was apparent to the average listener.

"Sleep well, last night?"

"Like a top, sir. I woke up at two bells and walked the deck till the wind began to freshen, and then—"

"Food all right?"

"Right as rain, doc. Eat all I can get, and if it wasn't as I might become a glutton I'd ask for more. But I leave it to you, doc. You know my stomach's in fine order. I was just saying—"

"Let me see. You're on—"

"I should a bin on all right, but that ere chump of a doctor he messes it all up. But low did I eat the thing specially at this time of the year."

"Do you think you could manage a Christmas Dinner?"

General collapse, groans and outspoken admiration for the doctor, who pretends he doesn't like praise.

Christmas Day opened dull and sad, and breakfast, passed like an evil dream. The wards were a desolate look and the patients crept stealthily from bed to bed—for the silence was that "eavy they were all afraid to speak."

The Dinner came eventually and it was a la Ritz from the opening till the arrival of the sherry, which came last, that being the latest fashion observed by the aristocracy of the Gobi plateau. Fifteen plates and a dozen knives disappeared, but they had been evidence of having eaten a variety of purposes. It is calculated that the leaves and fishes picked up or concealed during the banquet will keep the hospital community in extras till next week at least. Casualties to date—nil.

THE POLICE DANCE

"BLUE COATS" AT HOME.

The annual dance given by the European members of the Hong Kong Police Force took place for the first time at the City Hall, on Christmas Eve. Formerly the dance was held at No. 7 Police Station, but owing to the lack of accommodation it was decided this year that it should be held in more spacious quarters. And on Christmas Eve "Bobbie" opened his large heart to the 300 odd guests present. No effort was spared to give one and all a really good time.

The decorations, though simple, were really artistic. The hall-room was brilliantly illuminated, whilst the walls were lined with bunting. At the entrance to the cloak-room officers of a stern looking policeman in one corner and immediately opposite a fireman stood guard. Dancing commenced at nine o'clock to the strains of the band of H.M.S. Monmouth, ending in the small hours of the morning. Supper was served shortly after midnight in the middle room, which had also been manned to wear a most gay and festive appearance.

Those responsible for the success of the dance were: Chief Inspector Baker (Chairman of the committee), Sergeant A. Gordon (secretary), Sergeant J. Lee (treasurer), Inspector Ritchie, Sergeants Grant and Cooper (N.G.W.) MacDonald and Braxi, Lieut. Sergeant Puri, Police-constables Fox, Taylor, Stewart, Mc Lennan, Watt and Elliot.

THE MANILA CARNIVAL

The Manila Carnival Management have secured an order from the office of the Insular Collector of Customs, Manila, which saves non-American tourists the payment of the annoying head tax of \$4.00 dated December 14, 1937, the master is quoted. Aliens in transit through the Philippine Islands are exempt, it is held that a person who comes to the Philippine Islands as a traveller for curiosity or pleasure, that is to say a bona fide tourist, and with the intent to depart again within a reasonable time and return to the country from whence he came, does not "enter" within the meaning of the Act imposing the tax. The fact that a person upon arrival is "ticketed" limited to the "idea" of issue, and entitling him to transportation back to his town of departure, will be held prima facie to indicate that such person does not intend to enter within the meaning of the law. In practice, as regards the Hongkong patrons of the Carnival, which begins February 3, 1938, the Steamship Company guarantees the payment of the head tax in case the alien fails by failing to depart within a reasonable time or has since become to enter the country.

Now that this matter has been cleared up and cheap rates provided by steamship companies between Hongkong and Manila, no doubt many will make their plans to go.

TRAGEDY AT KOWLOON

INDIAN SOLDIER KILLED—ANOTHER SENT TO HOSPITAL

EIGHT OTHERS UNDER ARREST

Kowloon was aroused from its slumber today by a most shocking tragedy which occurred there early this morning when an Indian soldier belonging to the 2nd Baluchis was killed outright in barracks, and another removed to hospital by the Chinese police suffering from a severe head wound. The conditions in such a case are about the best of his recovery.

The news of the murder did not reach Hongkong until a late hour, this afternoon, and then the particulars were of a most scanty character. At police headquarters where one of our representatives called in search of details nothing could be gathered. From other sources, however, our reporter was able to secure the main facts that for some months past there has existed a certain amount of bad feeling between a number of men in the 2nd Baluchis, which increased day by day. What brought about this estrangement nobody can tell and it is very doubtful whether the true story will be told to the police. Be that as it may, the climax was reached early this morning when a quarrel, both parties agreed in a fight. At first sight no serious view was taken of the matter, but this opinion was soon altered when knives and sticks were brought into use. Several attempts were made to separate the combatants but this proved of no avail. The men, clung to each other, and fought like madmen. Suddenly there arose a cry of "I'm killed," and one of the soldiers fell to the floor. He had been stabbed in the chest, the other seemed to have made an attempt to escape, but the police who had been called during the affray arrived on the scene. The dead soldier, they had conveyed to the mortuary and another, whom they found badly injured, was conveyed to hospital. An inquiry was then made and eight suspects were placed under lock and key pending further investigation.

FIRES AT SHANGHAI

Supplementing our exclusive telegram of the 26th inst., the following report taken from the N.C. Daily News of the following day gives the full account of the outbreak of fire on the Bund at Shanghai last week. The report says:—At noon yesterday an outbreak of fire occurred in the centre of the city and but for the prompt way in which it was dealt with a heavy loss in property would have resulted. For at one time the roofs of the Palace Hotel, the Chartered Bank and the North China Daily News godown were ablaze. The fire originated at the Palace Hotel, where at noon smoke was found to be issuing from the roof at the far corner near the Chartered Bank. The outbreak was located by the fire engine and the corrugated iron of the roof over the baggage lift, which is immediately above the kitchen. Mr. M. J. Nathan, the manager, at once ordered the Hotel engine to be set to work and the hose were run from the reels on each floor. The engine pumped good strong streams on the top floor and the Hotel staff began to play on the fire with their hoses after a second length had been added. The high wind lashed the flames and just after the Fire Brigade arrived the corner of the roof of the Chartered Bank became ignited. The firemen, who had turned out very promptly, with the Deluge and Victoria engines, the motor chemical engine, ladders and reels, set to work with a will. One man got on to the roof of the Palace Hotel to play on the fire, but he began to slip down towards the flames and after this narrow escape men were lowered by ropes and pluckily fought the flames from this dizzy height, while others assisted by breaking down the wooden wall. One fireman slipped and fell into one of the water tanks which are close under the roof at this spot.

The Chartered Bank had meanwhile taken fire and a hose was brought up to the verandah of the premises at the rear. The manager of the Hotel, seeing the danger of the bank, ordered the hose from the fourth floor to be turned on the bank from the verandah. In this way the safety of the Bank premises was assured in a short time. A third engine then observed by the crowds which occupied the roofs of all the buildings in the vicinity, the apex of the roof of the North China Daily News godown was well alight. The firm's own appliances were brought into requisition and the Brigade ran a hose up through the printing office, but the chemical hose from outside sufficed to extinguish the flames. A fair-sized hole had been burst in the roof and a few bales of paper were damaged.

The Brigade were at work about an hour before all the property was out of danger, and the members deserve great credit for the thoroughly smart and efficient manner in which they did their work. The hole in the roof of the Palace Hotel show how serious was the outbreak and with such a gale blowing it is indeed fortunate that it was possible by strenuous effort to subdue the flames.

As to the cause of the fire it may be stated that the burning material was found to be a light at the Palace Hotel and it was thought that the fumes of an electric wire might have caused the woodwork to smoulder and this "wild" fanned into flame. After a careful examination, however, it was ascertained that a defective fuse was the origin of the trouble. There is no doubt that sparks were carried by the electric wire to the woodwork and from there to the other buildings, and that the fire spread from the Palace Hotel and was thought that the fumes of an electric wire might have caused the woodwork to smoulder and this "wild" fanned into flame. After a careful examination, however, it was ascertained that a defective fuse was the origin of the trouble. 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IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

At this time of the year when the little ones have become excited over their anxiety to know how their Christmas gifts will be brought to them by Father Christmas, the question will arise among those of a sceptical age—especially the naughty ones—as to whether there is such a person in the world as Santa Claus. And it is with this purpose in view that we publish prominently on this day the reply given by a contemporary to the letter of an eight-year-old girl, by name Virginia, who asked the question "Is there a Santa Claus?" She asked to be told the truth, "as some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus." The answer to her query, which we entirely endorse, and which every little one in the Colony will read with interest was as follows:—Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the sceptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and he gives to all who are good and true. His list is a long one. It would be like the list of the stars in heaven. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Nor believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, hope, charity, love, kindness, and a good heart can see into that world and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. It is all real, Abigail, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, say, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

We wish all our young friends a
"MERRY XMAS."

THE HEAVY DECLINE IN THE SILVER MARKET.

ITS EFFECT ON JAPAN.

The *Japan Chronicle* of 14th inst. says:—The London silver market, which declined to 26½d. on Monday, the lowest point reached this year, declined by ½d. further on Tuesday, making the lowest point since 1905. The rate of exchange upon Shanghai on demand rose to 77½, a rise of about 2 taels in four days, and the market for marine produce (dried awabi, seaweed, &c.) in Kobe has been seriously affected. As the Chinese merchants have been obliged to suddenly stop their purchases by reason of the depreciation in silver, this branch of business is almost at a standstill.

In Osaka, anxiety has arisen as to the future of cotton yarn, which is so much affected by the silver market in China. This has resulted in a decline in the market on the Three Articles Exchange (Cotton Yarn and Fabrics and Raw Cotton). The low price of cotton yarn has affected the price of spinning shares on the Stock Exchange, which, combined with the decline in other shares, has resulted in considerable depreciation in the value of securities held by the banks, this course in turn affecting the money market.

While the decline in silver restricts exports from Japan to China, it encourages the import from that country. The export of copper to China has also been affected, and the year will close with a large accumulation of stocks. It is expected that the advance in price of commodities in China due to the rise in silver will ultimately affect the export of goods to Japan.

On Tuesday the quotations of yarn on the Osaka Three Articles Exchange for December delivery closed at 15½¢ decline of 1½¢, 10¢ on the previous day. January delivery was quoted at ¥15.00, a decline of 1¢, and February delivery at ¥14.90, a decline of 1¢.

Despite the general decline in the share market on Tuesday, the old Kanagafuchi shares for February delivery closed unchanged. In reference to the present price of spinning shares, the *Osaka Asahi* writes that, calculated according to the ratio of interest paid on these shares, the quotations of some of them have now declined to the level of the reserve as calculated upon each share, or the paid-up amount of capital, yet there is very little demand. The Amagasaki Spinning Company's shares form the only spinning stock which maintains a quotation above ¥10, and are in demand on the basis of the dividend previously paid, amounting to 50 per cent.

It is reported that W. F. Chindon, a wealthy Chinese merchant of Kobe, has been largely buying Kanagafuchi shares in Tokyo as well as in Osaka. Probably this accounts for the maintenance of the market of the shares for February delivery.

VOLCANIC RUPTION NEAR GIJU.

STARTLING OUTBREAK.

The *Osaka Mainichi* publishes a Gifu telegram stating that Iwadeke, a volcano in Hida province, suddenly burst into eruption on Wednesday. Fire and smoke were soon coming from the crater during the afternoon of the same day, and the people living in the neighbourhood were naturally much alarmed.

The volcano is situated between Yoshiki district, Hida province, and Mitsuichi Aruchi district, Shinano province. Iwadeke, which was considered to be an extinct volcano, rises 6,775 feet above sea level. At the base of the mountain are a number of hot springs, while two high volcanic peaks, which it is hoped are extinct, stand near by.

WEI-HAI-WEI.

A CINDERELLA OF EMPIRE.

There is a certain pathos in the tale of the Wei-hai-wei Gold Mining Company's plan, put up for auction in Shanghai yesterday (7th inst.) afternoon, which perhaps may be thought to extend to more than the ill-fortunes in one particular speculation. Into the details of this now closed chapter in Wei-hai-wei's history it is unnecessary to enter; they are sufficiently known throughout the China coast. No doubt exists of the presence of gold in the foothills of Wei-hai-wei. But the attempt to realize appears to have been made without either adequate survey or calculation of cost so much so, indeed, that according to one story not devoid of expert authority, the stamps were actually set down over the seam itself, which was rendered entirely useless. But the fate of the Wei-hai-wei gold mines is chiefly interesting as an illustration of the whole territory, and as the real potentialities of Wei-hai-wei are in no manner bound up with the possibilities of its gold, it is sincerely to be hoped that that fate may be averted while there is yet time. During the past summer a new bid was made for the claims of Wei-hai-wei as a health resort by the conversion of the officers' quarters of the extinct Chinese Regiment into an additional hotel; and those who enjoyed the inspiring air and sparkling blue seas of Wei-hai-wei, who climbed its russet hills or explored its fruitful valleys, were well rewarded for the justice of those claims. Only as a health resort, and without regard for wider considerations of commerce and naval policy, the territory may be said, like the latest popular magazine but with more justification, to supply a long-felt want. But until the shadow of present uncertainty, as to the Imperial Government's intentions is removed, even that unambitious sphere is hardly available for it.

So far back in the history of Great Britain's occupation of Wei-hai-wei as April, 1898, which was three months before the Convention with the Chinese Government was actually signed, the then Mr. Curzon, speaking in the House of Commons, warmly repudiated Sir Charles Dike's suggestion that the Government had acquired the territory in haste and with no very determined policy. Subsequent events have substantiated rather the charge that its acquisition and although Mr. Bunsen, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, declared categorically in February, 1906, that "the transfer of Port Arthur from Russia to Japan makes no difference to the British occupation of Wei-hai-wei; no action is at present contemplated by His Majesty's Government," the present state of the territory, with its incomplete and vacant fortifications, its new naval hospital existing only in site, is abundant evidence of the vacillating character of the policy which has made good of its difficulties. It is to be supposed that in a multitude of counsels the precise utility of Wei-hai-wei has become obscured, and the unwillingness of successive Governments to spend money upon new enterprises has afforded excuse for inaction in the conflict of expert opinions as to whether Wei-hai-wei should be converted into a northern Hongkong, or be utilized merely as a flying naval base and depot for the China Squadron. Since the disbanding of the Chinese Regiment a new suggestion has been put forward to the effect that the British troops now stationed at Tientsin be withdrawn to Wei-hai-wei where barracks stand empty awaiting them. Such a step, it is urged, would gain the unstinted gratitude of the Chinese to whom the presence of foreign troops at Tientsin cannot but be an obnoxious reminder of crimes which they might hope by now to have buried in decent oblivion. At the same time the troops which would be at least as likely to be kept as would be necessary, in the event of those crimes proving less completely defunct than they are alleged to be. The suggestion has at least this obvious merit that it would provide the Government of Great Britain with a basis on which to arrange a revised lease of the island of Lükung and the Wei-hai-wei territory; when the unfortunate mistake whereby the present occupation is made to depend upon the possession of Port Arthur, by a particular lease which has been rectified in the Convention already bears morally if not technically.

In one respect, at least the question of Wei-hai-wei appears to admit of no dispute for it is clear that any alteration which has taken place in the balance of power in Far Eastern waters during the last ten years is of degree only, and not of quality; and if the occupation of Wei-hai-wei was a necessity to Great Britain so recently as in February, 1906 it is certainly not less so to-day. That the naval activities which once were contemplated, if not systematically kept out for the territory, have been altogether abandoned is apparently beyond doubt. But between that high destiny and the present policy of grudging inaction beneath which Wei-hai-wei visibly languishes there is the middle line of commercial development, for which there is reason to believe that the necessary enterprise would not be lacking if once the Government could be brought to declare its intentions. It would be as absurd as inaccurate to suggest that Wei-hai-wei has other aptitude than as a place of refuge for British subjects in the Far East nor could the Government be expected to express itself very decidedly, if this were the sole aim in view. Already, and in spite of the poverty of encouragement, much has been done in opening up the territory with new roads and bridges, in draining and in reconstruction of formerly insanitary dwellings. There is little doubt that the existing trade in agricultural produce and grain will be augmented by the culture of silkworms and by scientific fruit and dairy farming, while the example of the winegrowers at Chiaofoo might surely be imitated in the sheltered valleys which surround Mt. Gaochen and Mt. Lansdowne. At the present time the advancement of Wei-hai-wei is further hampered by the purely gratuitous pledge given to Germany in 1898 that no railway should be built on the territory; and the consequent supplies are in a measure cut off. It is to be hoped that Wei-hai-wei may obtain her legitimate share in the internal trade of Shan-tung by the natural advantages of her great harbour, entitle her. Even without so great a concession as this, but with a little more certainty of her own future, the Cinderella of the Empire might be trusted to discover her own fairy prince.

R. G. D. News.

FOOTBALL.

LUBISTANO FOOTBALL CLUB.

Eleven-a-side Competition.

The table now stands:

	P. W. L. D. T. A. Pts.
Victor's team (C)	5 4 0 1 5 13
Ozorio's team (D)	5 4 0 1 5 13
Cordero's team (B)	5 4 0 1 5 13
Rosa's team (G)	6 4 1 1 5 12
Barretto's team (H)	6 4 1 1 5 12
Brillo's team (F)	7 1 0 2 5 14
Ribairo's team (E)	7 1 0 2 5 14
Barro's team (A)	7 1 0 2 5 14
	4 1 0 1 0 10
	4 1 0 1 0 10

One point for a win.

SAD ACCIDENT ON H. M. S. "KING ALFRED."

DEATH OF A B. SAVANNAH.

All the men on board the H. M. S. "King Alfred" were in the habit of going to the deck for a walk after tea. On the 24th inst. a young able-bodied man, named Saunders, who came by his death as the result of an accident last night, A. B. Saunders was only twenty years of age and his untimely demise at this festive season has cast a gloom over the whole of the ship's company. With a friend Saunders proceeded on deck for some fresh air last night. After pacing the deck for some time he turned back towards the edge of one of the foremast hatches. While thus seated he accidentally over-balanced himself and was precipitated into the hatch below—a drop of some thirty to forty feet. When he was picked up Saunders was found to be dead, having been instantaneously killed by the fall. No one was the accident known to the ship's officers until Fleet-Surgeon Chmielewski, assisted by another surgeon, was immediately in attendance; but their services could be of no avail as life was extinct when the body of Saunders was brought up. The medical men being of opinion that deceased died of concussion of the brain due to the violence of the fall. At nine o'clock this morning the body was removed to the Naval Mortuary at Wanchai whence the burial took place at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Deceased was given a burial with full naval honours. The officer, resting on a gun carriage covered by the Union Jack, was drawn to the Cemetery at Happy Valley by comrades of the deceased. Every warship in the harbour was represented by a detachment of seamen, marines and officers. Numerous beautiful wreaths surrounded the coffin and the band from the flagship (H. M. S. "King Alfred") led the funeral procession to the Monument to the grave. The funeral ceremony was performed by Naval Chaplain Lovett, of the "King Alfred," a firing party being provided by the ship to which the deceased belonged.

Young Saunders was due to be paid off next month at the end of his commission when he was to proceed home where his father and mother besides three sisters (he being the only son) survive to mourn his loss.

FUNERAL OF MR. G. J. W. FROUNDS.

The funeral of Mr. Charles James William Frounds took place at the old Cemetery at Ono, at noon yesterday, says the *Japan Chronicle* of 12th inst. In his will the deceased expressed the desire that his remains "be kept until the usual evidences are undoubted that life has ceased, as the change exhibited in all cases; and that his remains be buried in the cemetery of Ono." The application he made to inter the cremated ashes in the old Cemetery at Ono. The deceased also indicated the spot preferred by him for his grave and expressed the desire that a monument be erected, with an inscription in Roman and Sino-Japanese. The remains were duly carried to Katsugano, the ashes being taken to the International Hospital, from which place the cortege proceeded to the old Cemetery. The urn was placed in a coffin and conveyed to the cemetery in a glass-paneled hearse. At the cemetery the service was conducted under Buddhist rites by three priests from the Gokurakuji Temple, to which the deceased belonged. A large number of floral tributes were sent, principally from Japanese. A beautiful wreath was sent by the Licensed Pilots' Association, the funeral having been left on the hands of Mr. W. A. L. Thompson, Secretary of that Association. Among the foreigners present at the funeral were Mr. Yap Hock-Ling, Comptroller of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Mr. G. Abily, Captain Dunbar, Captain Anderson, Mr. M. Wignall, Mr. W. Martin, Mr. J. L. Thompson, and Mr. Loxton, besides a number of Japanese.

A GOLDEN DREAM.

And as I lay, I mused over the long suffering and patience of the owner of this place when there appeared before me an angel holding in front a book which he opened and I there beheld having printed on it letters of gold, which I read thus:

AN ACT FOR THE PROTECTION OF HOUSEHOLDERS.

1st January, 1908.

John Anderson, Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

It is hereby enacted by the Governor of the Straits Settlements with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof as follows:

1. This Ordinance may be cited as "The Protection of Household's Ordinance 1908," and shall repeal such portions of the Labourers Ordinance 1882 so far as the same is applicable to Domestic Servants.

2. All persons engaged to perform menial work shall be deemed to be Domestic Servants under this Ordinance and shall include cookmen, chaffeurs, grooms, gardeners, as well as house servants male and female.

3. Any engagement entered into after the passing of this act shall be for one month, unless otherwise expressly stated, and two weeks' notice on either hand shall cause such engagement to terminate at the expiry thereof.

4. All wages shall be paid within seven days of the termination of the engagement, and on which they become due, except the termination of an engagement after such notice, as aforesaid, when they shall become due at the termination of the engagement.

5. No person shall board or lodge any Chinese Domestic Servant for a longer period than one month without the permission of the Chief Police Officer, and a book shall be kept by such person in which shall be written the name of such boarder or lodger and the name and address of the person employing him.

6. Any Chinese Domestic Servant who shall have been out of employment for a longer period than one month shall be deemed a suspected person and be liable to be charged as such unless he shall satisfy the court that he has visible means of subsistence and that within the twelve months preceding he has been in employment under any employer for a longer period than six months he shall for the first offence be liable to fine and to fine and to imprisonment for the second offence, and on any such offence thereafter he may be banished from the Colony under the provisions of Ordinance IV of 1888, his presence being inconsistent with the public safety and welfare.

7. No Domestic Servant shall refuse to perform any work consistent with the services for which he was engaged.

8. Any breach of the above sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, shall be met with a fine not exceeding \$25 for the first offence and \$50 or not more than three months' imprisonment for any subsequent offence; and any third or subsequent breach of sec. 6 shall carry with it the liability to deportation as aforesaid.

A voice arose me from my reverie saying, "Tuan shah, tehya, masha, pengi, Ching, Singapora Free Press."

SANITARY BOARD.

FORTHNIGHTLY MEETING.

The fortnightly meeting of the Sanitary Board was held in the Board-room last Tuesday afternoon, when the following business was transacted:

VEGETABLE MARKET FOR YAU-MA-TEI.
The reply from the Government to a petition from Yau-ma-tei vegetable merchants in which they asked for a site to erect a vegetable market thereon, was laid on the table. It was as follows:

Colonial Secretary's Office,
and December.
Sir,—Referring to your letter No. 3464 of the 21st September, 1907, I am directed to state that the Government are prepared to grant a site for the preparation of the site for the vegetable market at Yau-ma-tei.

The Registrar-General considers that an area of 160 x 35 feet will be sufficient for the first instance and this area will accordingly be cordoned and drained and a water supply will be provided as suggested by the Board.

The area will be increased to 160 x 60 feet when it is considered necessary, and when funds permit, and it is proposed eventually to roof over the whole site. I am, etc.

(Sd.) F. H. MAY, Colonial Secretary.

LATRINE ACCOMMODATION.

Correspondence relative to latrine accommodation at No. 14, Des Voeux Road Central, premises occupied by Jap's Ltd., was considered. The correspondence is appended.

Sir,—It appears on inspection that the above building is not provided with proper latrine accommodation for the Chinese employees.

It is requested that the Board of Health be good enough to supply proper latrine accommodation in accordance with Section 166 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903—I have, etc.

(Sd.) G. A. WOODCOCK, Secretary.

Comptroller Office.

Jardine, Matheson & Co., 29th November.

Sir,—With reference to your letter No. 5946/07 calling upon me to provide latrine accommodation in the above building for the Chinese employees, I beg to request that the Board be good enough to allow the provision of the conveniences to stand in abeyance until the premises are fully let. The reasons for my application are—

At present the whole floor had the greater portion of the first floor vacant. When the entire premises are let, I shall be in a better position to ascertain the availability and extent of the space that may be required, and also what position will best suit the convenience of all the tenants.

In addition to two privies on the first floor for use by the European and Chinese occupants, there exist at present two privies: one on the first floor, maintained by the tenants; the St. George's Club—for use by their Chinese employees, and one on the ground floor, maintained by the tenants—the "S.C. Morning Post," for the same purpose—I am, etc.

(Sd.) Ho Tung.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

With regard to the amendment of the existing Public Health and Buildings Ordinance and the bye-laws in respect of the removal of latrine contents, which were introduced by me, Sir, a lengthy minute by Mr. Lau Chu Pak dealing on the subject was discussed.

THE CHINESE COMMERCIAL MISSION.

INTERVIEW WITH H.E. YANG SHIH CHI.

The *Siam Observer* of 28th ult. says:—H. E. Yang Shih Chi, the Chinese Imperial Special Commissioner engaged in the study of commercial relations with Siam, who arrived in Bangkok yesterday is now being entertained at the house of Phya, Roriboon, Klong Poh Yome.

A large number of Chinese merchants have paid their respects to him. His Excellency is Vice-President of the Board of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce at Peking.

A representative of the *Siam Observer* this morning sought an interview which was most courteously accorded. His Excellency did not speak English, but his Secretary, Mr. T. K. Tsai (who was educated in America) undertook to interpret.

His Excellency first remarked upon the great heat of Bangkok and also upon its mosquitoes. Then, coming to other subjects, and answering questions in the most courteous manner, he said, as to the object of the Mission.

"I go to several places to study the growth of the industries there, and the methods they have adopted for improving their trade. I also study the several markets of the world."

Asked as to whether he might engage in the trade, His Excellency said:—"Well, we mean to do so. We will study the several markets, and if China can export anything, we mean to do so."

"But China is entirely dependant upon foreign countries for its very necessities. It may be; but times are changing. We will start new industries, as a result of our studies, and may export also."

As to whether the home market should not be looked to, His Excellency said:—"Absolutely not, but, while we are being supplied from elsewhere, if we could manufacture and export things to other countries profitably, there is nothing wrong in doing so."

"But it will be a long time before such a thing can happen?"

"You do not know China then. China is improving by leaps and bounds. What could be accomplished in a term of years some time back? We are determined to accomplish it now. The whole nation is filled with an ardour to improve itself."

"How could you do it without foreign training?"

"We are sending out any number of students to foreign countries. The richer students go to America and Europe and the poorer ones to Japan. Many have returned and started innovations in every branch of industry."

To a question regarding the reports of dissension between various parties in China, His Excellency said:—"In the meantime he goes to Africa to convert the heathens, but he finds there far deeper vice and degradation than he had left, and after spending a twelve month there, he returns to England. Meanwhile, Cecil Gwynne was cured and converted to Christian Science. He returns to find his sweet and gentle woman—the whom illness which he had left her a year ago was turning a bitter and discontented woman. Again he relieves his sufferings of marriage. He again is disappointed, for although, she said, she loved him, she could not give up Christian Science. We leave thereafter to go through the troubled times of Robert Saul, who his sister and her son, the only ones he loved, was converted to the Christian Science faith. Finally, he himself and wife over to the cause."

"Do you mean to say that Christianity cannot have a large following in China?"

"Of course not. China will never become Christian, however an appreciable part of it. Then why anti-Christian riots and murders of Christians?"

"It is all caused by some middle-class foreigners and native Christians who, unnecessarily provoke the ignorant Chinese population."

To a question regarding the troubles at Kwang and the reform movement, H.E. said:—"The reformers want a constitutional form of Government like that of Japan or England for China. They have sympathisers in all parts of the country, among the Ministers, Viceroys and all the high officials. The Emperor Dowager herself has promised to grant a constitution for China."

"Why, then, the rebellions?"

"Because some fools are very impatient of the delay in the making of such a great thing as the granting of a Constitution."

"Do the reformers then want a republican constitution?"

"Not at all; in China there is deep veneration for the Throne. What the reformers want is only a Constitutional monarchy."

"Do the Chinese like foreigners?"

"Why should they hate them? Some years ago the people had before their eyes the constant trouble which they had at the hands of foreigners. Now we want to improve in every way. The Government and the people are now determined to take more and more of foreign aid at present. You will see in a few years that more foreigners will be employed by the Chinese Government and be able to conduct their affairs. We want to Westernise everything and we know we cannot do it at present without foreign help."

As to the reforms in recent years, His Excellency said:—"We have improved our army. Thanks to the great genius of H.E. Yuan Shih Kai, we have a large army trained in European style. Our Civil Service examination—the greatest institution of China—has been completely remodelled on Western lines. It is impossible to enumerate all that is done, except by saying the whole wheel of Chinese affairs is on the move towards efficiency."

"What is the future of China's policy?"

"To have an efficient constitutional Government, to be friendly with the Powers of the world, and at the same time be respected by them, as we shall respect them."

As to his present programme, His Excellency said:—"I will stop here up to 1st December, and embark and proceed to Singapore, where I will stop in Singapore and study the trade for a few days, then proceed to Java, and then to Penang, and leave the cruisers there, which will return back to China. I will then proceed to Europe by a mail steamer. I will visit the several countries there. After that I proceed to America and Japan, stopping in each country for some days, and will then return home. At the same time, I must tell you I have no cut and dried programme. I will alter it to suit my convenience."

As to the cruisers, His Excellency said they were taken simply for convenience.

As to the suggestion which was made in some quarters some time back that the cruisers were taken to show the Chinese resident in the Straits and Bangkok the might of China, His Excellency said:

"Not at all. First of all it is a friendly visit to the countries, apart from the purposes of my mission. Secondly, it is a friendly visit because the Chinese out in foreign parts are a microscopic minority of the vast population of China. For anything, we could well afford to leave them out of our calculations. But one thing I must tell you I cannot understand why the foreign Press in China should make a fuss about it. So many foreign warships come to China and they go from one country to the other. They go without any comment. Simply because China has kept itself isolated up to now and has just broken the tradition from a purely honest and just motive, all these wild things are said about it."

"What is your programme in Bangkok?"

"I told you I came to study the trade. I mean to pay a visit to the Foreign Minister. But I am not here or anywhere on a diplomatic mission."

His Excellency then said he was extremely pleased with Bangkok, but for its heat and mosquitoes. He said he was happy to see the improvement of Siam in many fields.

At the conclusion of the interview which lasted over an hour, representative sincerely thanked His Excellency and his genial Secretary, Mr. Tsai, for their indulgence, and wished them good-bye.

THE SEAMLESS ROBE.

THE LATEST NOVEL.

One can scarcely peruse the pages of "The Seamless Robe" (by Ada Carter—T. Werner Laurie) without feeling right through the keenest interest in this original tale. The writing is clear and warm with a glow of individuality. The beginning with the glow of individuality. The beginning with the glow of individuality.

Lord George Maxwell's cure after his illness when all doctors had pronounced his cure hopeless would bring to the mind Christian Science. Then we will follow the hero—Robert Saul—when he gave up his life of a priest at St. Anselm's College to go out into the world, ending up in asking Lady Cecil Gwynne to marry him, his heart having gone out to her years ago when he was called during his stay in the hospital to the knot between her and a man old enough to be her grandfather.

Cecil Gwynne's staunch friend was her aunt, Margaret Collyer, and the favoured Robert Saul. The wedding between Cecil and the old fogey was about to take place when a few days before he received serious injuries in a carriage accident.

We will not relate of the months of terrible suffering and pain he went through, suffice it to say that all doctors pronounced her case hopeless. During the time the knot between her and a man old enough to be her grandfather.

The letter was written lovingly, but quite decidedly. It was the last egotistical letter that she had written him for a long time, and it touched him deeply. His reply was characteristic of the man's impulsive nature. He refused to consider the engagement at an end. But, instead, he said, in a year he would ask her again to marry him.

In the meantime he goes to Africa to convert the heathens, but he finds there far deeper vice and degradation than he had left, and after spending a twelve month there, he returns to England. Meanwhile, Cecil Gwynne was cured and converted to Christian Science. He returns to find his sweet and gentle woman—the whom illness which he had left her a year ago was turning a bitter and discontented woman. Again he relieves his sufferings of marriage. He again is disappointed, for although, she said, she loved him, she could not give up Christian Science. We leave thereafter to go through the troubled times of Robert Saul, who his sister and her son, the only ones he loved, was converted to the Christian Science faith. Finally, he himself and wife over to the cause."

RETURN of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 23rd December, 1907.

Non-Chinese.
Chinese.
Total.

JAPANESE SHIPPING.

THE QUESTION OF COMPETITION.

The complaint made by Sir Thomas Scharland at the annual meeting of the British and Oriental Company will undoubtedly attract wide attention in Japan. Sir Thomas spoke of "unfair competition" between Bombay and Japan, but though we can quite understand the attitude of the P. & O. chairman, it must at the same time be borne in mind that all is fair in love and war—and trade, especially from a Japanese point of view. As a matter of fact, it is the people of this country who are the greatest sufferers, as they are taxed to pay subsidies in support of Japanese steamers, when the over-sea carrying trade of the country could with at least as great advantage be done in vessels that do not carry the Japanese flag. It is curious to note that Sir Thomas is not alone in his complaint; for on November 2nd Mr. R. F. Schwenn, president of the Pacific Mail Steamship Line, made a very bitter speech on the shipping business of the Pacific. Mr. Schwenn was a guest at the dinner of the Waldorf, New York, of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. He said that he had requested that his name be omitted from the list of speakers, but as this had not been done he felt it incumbent upon him to tell the truth about what he termed "the most deplorable state of affairs in American shipping." His subject was: "What the United States is Doing for Its Merchant Marine on the Pacific Coast."

He referred to the liberal subsidies which are granted on the Pacific to British, German, and Japanese vessels, and stated that two magnificent vessels were to be added to one Japanese line, which has already increased its fleet by three additional ships in comparatively recent times.

"What subsidy alone will not make a ship a success," he said, "and the United States Government pass a Bill like the Chinese prohibitive immigration enactment, for these companies suffer, the loss of their immigrant traffic, and you would see their vessels tied up for lack of support."

"What has the United States Government done for us? Within a short period we were fined \$

CHRISTMAS AT THE SEAMEN'S MISSION.

The Seamen's Mission was throughout the whole of yesterday (25th inst.) a scene of busy activity as all its centres of work. At the church which was beautifully decorated for the occasion, well-attended services were held at half-past seven and at eleven o'clock. Sports were held at St. Stephen's Island in the afternoon to which a good number of men were taken in launches. Fortunately the weather was fine during the whole of the time given up to the sports, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent there. Most of the events were very keenly contested, but the supreme struggle came when a team of C. P. R. men from the "Enterprise" of India pulled against a team of R. G. A. men. For some time the event hung in the balance, but at last under the captaincy of Mr. Proctor the C. P. R. men gradually drew their opponents over the line. At the Kowloon Institute, which was gay with bunting and properly, the party did justice to a good tea, and afterwards adjourned to the upper room, where a very pleasant evening was spent. Songs and solos were sung by many volunteers from the party. The C. P. R. already alongside the dock, discharged her cargo of presents for all, and sundry, and the prizes won in the sports were presented to the victors. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and evening came to a close about ten o'clock. But whilst all these things were going on at St. Stephen's and Kowloon the Institute at Wanchai was not idle, a social party gathered in the evening, the room being brightly and prettily decorated and did full justice to the supper arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Molson, the "father" and "mother" of the Institute, and from the appearance of the supper table with its arrangements for games of various kinds and its good cheer it was evident that they meant to spend the rest of evening in the good old-fashioned Christmas way. There is no doubt that to men far away from their homes and families, such a gathering with intimate and family aspects would be a reminder of home and home influences and make up to some extent for the deprivations entailed by exile.

THE FLUCTUATION IN SILVER.

EFFECT ON THE COTTON AND YARN MARKET.

The silver market in London, which advanced to 254d on Thursday, dropped to 253d again on Friday, and the rate of exchange on China rose accordingly. The decline is reported to have struck another heavy blow at the trade with China.

The news of the advance of cotton in America, which reached Osaka on Friday morning, had little effect on the yarn market, but the decline in silver discouraged buyers. The quotation for December delivery on the Yokohama Exchange opened at a decline of 1/100 for January delivery, 80 sen below previous figures, and for February delivery 20 sen. The situation was even more unfavorable at the second calling, when there were some reckless speculators on a falling market, and December delivery closed 1/25 below the rate of the previous day, January delivery 80 sen, and February delivery 20 sen. Closing quotations on Friday are compared with those of the preceding day as follows:—

	Thursday.	Friday.
December delivery	Y116.75	Y114.20
January	Y116.60	Y113.80
February	Y114.60	Y114.20

The Osaka *Matsuri* observes in reference to the outlook for the yarn market that buyers who had been firm in their attitude in anticipation of a good market for cotton fabrics, seem to have been disappointed. The silver market declined, and the accumulation of stocks of yarn has increased. Misfortunes seldom come singly, and it is no wonder that buyers are reduced to a very trying position. The accumulation of stocks remaining unsold exceeds 35,000 bales—over 25,000 bales in the home market and about 10,000 bales in Shanghai. This is a very small quantity in view of the fact that the monthly output in Japan reached over 60,000 bales during the time when the spinning industry was at the zenith of its prosperity, but the output will largely increase next year when an increased number of spindles come into operation, and it is regarded as only natural that a pessimist view should prevail. The home demand for yarn increases steadily, but the supply is also increasing, and it has yet to be seen whether supply and demand are in equal proportion. The market for cotton is very improved, and the market for the export trade. But its outlook is very uncertain, as there is no immediate prospect of the silver market becoming settled. Some export contracts for prospective delivery have been cancelled, and even the re-export of yarn from Shanghai is contemplated.

The Osaka *Jiji* notes that the present quotation of yarn, calculated upon the price of raw cotton, does not pay expenses of production, and the price of spinning cottons has fallen below the cost of production. The price of raw cotton is maintained only by the fact that all the yarn to be produced up to March next is sold at higher prices.—*Japan Chronicle*.

AN OLD SMUGGLER.

CANDID CONFESSION AT THE SUPREME COURT.

During the hearing of a case in the Summary Jurisdiction Court, on the 24th instant, a little amusement was caused by the plaintiff in the action being made to confess that at one time or another he took part in smuggling contraband into Chinese territory.

Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, who appeared for the defence, began his attack by asking the plaintiff the name of his native place.

AN OLD SMUGGLER.

CANDID CONFESSION AT THE SUPREME COURT.

"San-wei" was the reply.

Mr. Grist: But in what village?

Plaintiff—Mok Pin.

Do you have home often?—Once a year.

You don't stay there long, do you?—No, only a few days.

During your last visit to the country you had trouble with the Chinese Government?—What trouble?

In connection with salt smuggling?—After a pause witness replied: "I have nothing to confess. I must confess that I took part in smuggling salt and opium some thirty years ago. Nothing at all to conceal." (Laughter).

WHIRLING IN HYOGO.

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT.

On the afternoon of the 26th instant the barracks of the 70th Infantry Regiment at Sasayama, Hyogo Prefecture, now in course of construction, were struck by a whirlwind with such force that the frames of the buildings were lifted up about five inches from the ground, and then all down to a mass of ruins. Five workmen and three horses were killed, and a great number of the frame-work were thrown down and injured, two of them severely.

FOOCHOW RACES.

FIRST DAY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Foochow, 18th December, 1907.

The winter meeting of the annual Foochow races, which concluded to-day, can be summed up, briefly, as one of complete success. Fine weather prevailed throughout the three days. On the first and second days the course was rather dead going; but on Wednesday with the sun appearing in the morning there was a dry course and the "times" made were faster. There was a large attendance of residents, the gathering being considerably augmented by a number of visitors, including a few from your Colony and to whom Foochow was only too pleased to extend its meagre hospitality. The usual big crowds of natives, which are a feature of race meetings in China, watched the events with considerable good humour. Results, in detail, are appended supplementally to my telegrams despatched at the end of each day's racing.

Monday, 16th December, 1907.

1.—THE STEWARDS' CUP.—Presented. Value \$100. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Entrance \$5. Half a mile. Capt. Hope's Spots, 148 lb. (Dupree) 1. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 2. Mr. Migrator's Massago, 155 lb. (Goodfellow) 3. Mr. Willie Shaw's Adanac (aka Buck Up) (Schmorr) 0.

Time: 1.41.

2.—THE TRIAL STAKES.—A forced entry of \$10 each with \$100 added. Second pony to receive \$50. Third pony \$25. For subscription ponies of this meeting. Weights as per scale. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Bay Rum, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Oswald's Winchester, 152 lb. (Dupree) 0. Mr. Buckstockett's Only Star, 146 lb. (Schmorr) 0.

Time: 1.41.

3.—THE TOTALISATOR CUP.—Value \$150. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Entrance \$10. One mile and three quarters. Capt. Hope's Tritonheimer, 151 lb. (Goodfellow) 1. Mr. Willie Shaw's Camarade, 152 lb. (Schmorr) 2. Mr. H.M.'s Salmon, 152 lb. (Brand) 0.

Time: 4.22.

4.—THE MIN STAKES.—Of \$10 each with \$70 added, divided 70, 20 and 10 per cent. to the first, second and third ponies. For subscription ponies of this meeting. Weight as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. One mile and a quarter. Capt. Hope's Ian, 155 lb. (Dupree) 1. Mr. Min's The Sapper, 151 lb. (McLellan) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 3.03 3/5.

5.—THE "OSWALD" CHALLENGE CUP.—Presented. For all China ponies. To be won at two consecutive winter meetings or three times in all by either the *bona fide* property of the same owner or owners. Entrance \$10 to go to the winner until Cup is finally won, when the Second Pony will receive the Entrance fees. Weights as per scale. One mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. Min's The Sapper, 151 lb. (McLellan) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 3.11.

6.—THE MANDARIN'S CUP.—Presented by the local authorities. Second pony to receive \$15. For subscription ponies of this meeting. Weight as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Seven furlongs. Capt. Hope's Ian, 155 lb. (Dupree) 1. Mr. Buckstockett's Only Star, 146 lb. (Schmorr) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 2.20.

7.—THE BIG SWEEP CUP.—Value \$125 to first, and second pony to receive \$15. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Entrance \$10. Seven furlongs. Mr. Min's Corrie, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Capt. Hope's Spots, 148 lb. (Dupree) 2. Mr. H.M.'s Salmon, 152 lb. (Brand) 3. Mr. Willie Shaw's Adanac, 152 lb. (Schmorr) 0. Mr. Thomas' Platelayer, 158 lb. (Oswald) 0.

Time: 1.57.

8.—THE HARKMAN CUP.—Presented. Value \$100. For subscription ponies of this meeting. Weights as per scale. Winners 5 lbs. extra, non-winners allowed 5 lbs. Entrance \$5. One round. Mr. Oswald's Winchester, 152 lb. (Dupree) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Mr. Buckstockett's Only Star, 146 lb. (Schmorr) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.23.

9.—THE HONKONG CUP.—\$150 to first, and \$50 to second pony if three or more starters. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Oswald's Winchester, 152 lb. (Dupree) 1. Mr. Min's The Sapper, 151 lb. (McLellan) 2. Capt. Hope's Tritonheimer, 151 lb. (Goodfellow) 3. Mr. Willie Shaw's Camarade, 152 lb. (Schmorr) 0.

Time: 1.47.

10.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

11.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

12.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

13.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

14.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

15.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

16.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

17.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

18.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

19.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

20.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

21.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

22.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

FOOCHOW RACES.

FIRST DAY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Foochow, 18th December, 1907.

The winter meeting of the annual Foochow races, which concluded to-day, can be summed up, briefly, as one of complete success. Fine weather prevailed throughout the three days. On the first and second days the course was rather dead going; but on Wednesday with the sun appearing in the morning there was a dry course and the "times" made were faster. There was a large attendance of residents, the gathering being considerably augmented by a number of visitors, including a few from your Colony and to whom Foochow was only too pleased to extend its meagre hospitality. The usual big crowds of natives, which are a feature of race meetings in China, watched the events with considerable good humour. Results, in detail, are appended supplementally to my telegrams despatched at the end of each day's racing.

Monday, 16th December, 1907.

1.—THE STEWARDS' CUP.—Presented. Value \$100. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Entrance \$5. Half a mile. Capt. Hope's Spots, 148 lb. (Dupree) 1. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 2. Mr. Migrator's Massago, 155 lb. (Goodfellow) 3. Mr. Willie Shaw's Adanac (aka Buck Up) (Schmorr) 0.

Time: 1.41.

2.—THE TRIAL STAKES.—A forced entry of \$10 each with \$100 added. Second pony to receive \$50. Third pony \$25. For subscription ponies of this meeting. Weights as per scale. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Bay Rum, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Oswald's Winchester, 152 lb. (Dupree) 0. Mr. Buckstockett's Only Star, 146 lb. (Schmorr) 0.

Time: 1.41.

3.—THE TOTALISATOR CUP.—Value \$150. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Entrance \$10. One mile and three quarters. Capt. Hope's Tritonheimer, 151 lb. (Goodfellow) 1. Mr. Willie Shaw's Camarade, 152 lb. (Schmorr) 2. Mr. H.M.'s Salmon, 152 lb. (Brand) 0.

Time: 4.22.

4.—THE MIN STAKES.—Of \$10 each with \$70 added, divided 70, 20 and 10 per cent. to the first, second and third ponies. For subscription ponies of this meeting. Weight as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. One mile and a quarter. Capt. Hope's Ian, 155 lb. (Dupree) 1. Mr. Min's The Sapper, 151 lb. (McLellan) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 3.03 3/5.

5.—THE "OSWALD" CHALLENGE CUP.—Presented. For all China ponies. To be won at two consecutive winter meetings or three times in all by either the *bona fide* property of the same owner or owners. Entrance \$10 to go to the winner until Cup is finally won, when the Second Pony will receive the Entrance fees. Weights as per scale. One mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. Min's The Sapper, 151 lb. (McLellan) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 3.11.

6.—THE MANDARIN'S CUP.—Presented by the local authorities. Second pony to receive \$15. For subscription ponies of this meeting. Weight as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Seven furlongs. Capt. Hope's Ian, 155 lb. (Dupree) 1. Mr. Buckstockett's Only Star, 146 lb. (Schmorr) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 2.20.

7.—THE BIG SWEEP CUP.—Value \$125 to first, and second pony to receive \$15. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Entrance \$10. Seven furlongs. Mr. Min's Corrie, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Capt. Hope's Spots, 148 lb. (Dupree) 2. Mr. H.M.'s Salmon, 152 lb. (Brand) 3. Mr. Willie Shaw's Adanac, 152 lb. (Schmorr) 0. Mr. Thomas' Platelayer, 158 lb. (Oswald) 0.

Time: 1.57.

8.—THE HARKMAN CUP.—Presented. Value \$100. For subscription ponies of this meeting. Weights as per scale. Winners 5 lbs. extra, non-winners allowed 5 lbs. Entrance \$5. One round. Mr. Oswald's Winchester, 152 lb. (Dupree) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Mr. Buckstockett's Only Star, 146 lb. (Schmorr) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.23.

9.—THE HONKONG CUP.—\$150 to first, and \$50 to second pony if three or more starters. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Oswald's Winchester, 152 lb. (Dupree) 1. Mr. Min's The Sapper, 151 lb. (McLellan) 2. Capt. Hope's Tritonheimer, 151 lb. (Goodfellow) 3. Mr. Willie Shaw's Camarade, 152 lb. (Schmorr) 0.

Time: 1.47.

10.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

11.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

12.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

13.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

14.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

15.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

16.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

17.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

18.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

19.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

20.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Friar Tuck, 155 lb. (Dupree) 3. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 0.

Time: 1.47.

21.—THE CHAMBER CUP.—Presented. Value \$50. Second pony to receive \$25. For all China ponies. Weights as per scale. Winners 7 lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile. Mr. Min's Scarlet Runner, 152 lb. (McLellan) 1. Mr. B. Anderson's Leonius, 159 lb. (Brand) 2. Capt. Hope's Fri

SHARE QUOTATIONS

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., have issued a calendar and pocket memo book on behalf of the Alliance Assurance Co., Ltd., for which they are the local agents.

A PIECE of Crown land; Inland lot No. 9780, situate at Causeway Bay, having 27,607 square feet, was put up for auction at the offices of the Public Works Department, last Monday afternoon. It was sold to Messrs. Palmer and Turner for \$50 above the upset price, which was \$11,040.

Lo PINO, a fireman belonging to the steam launch *Kwong Wo*, was given three weeks' hard labour and six hours' stocks at the Police Court, last Thursday, for entering the engine-room of the *Kwong Ho* at about two o'clock on Wednesday morning, and stealing the telegraph bell.

POLICE Sergeant Aris, of No. 7 Police Station, captured fourteen gamblers last Wednesday forenoon, as the result of a raid at No. 82, Ko Shing Street. At the Police Court, on Thursday morning, the two ringleaders were fined in the sum of \$10 each, and the remainder \$2 per head.

THUS the *Chaka Gritts*—We hear that the Cameron Highlanders are expected to arrive in Tientsin on the 8th of next month and the regiments now here will leave on the 10th. The Camerons do not wear kilts during the winter months but the ordinary military clothing, except on special occasions. Next spring, however, they may be expected to emerge from their chrysalis state and appear in full war paint and feathers.

We are informed that a party of Japanese arrived at Wuchow on the 21st inst. with a number of crates containing some beautiful specimens of poultry. The party is proceeding to Kweli to start a poultry farm and have with them some really excellent species of Minorcas, Plymouth Rocks, Langshans, Buffcochins and White Wyandottes. Their intentions are to improve the local breeds of poultry, and to show the Chinese what model poultry farm is like.

Mr. H. L. Denny, son of Mr. Denny, of the firm of Denny and Bowley, Hongkong, and formerly Crown Solicitor and a member of the Land Court, was successful at the Final Examination for Solicitors held on October 28 and 29 last. As an indication of the stiffness of the examination we may mention that only about half the candidates succeeded in passing. Mr. H. L. Denny, junior, joins the firm of Denny and Bowley in Hongkong, and left for Hongkong on December 4.

A GAMBLING raid which was executed at West Point last Friday forenoon, by Police Sergeant Aris, of 1111 First Street, resulted in eleven men being captured and the seizure of the gambling outfit. During the excitement which existed when the premises were entered a number of men made good their escape. Those who fell into the arms of the police were arraigned before Mr. H. H. J. Gomperts, at the Police Court, on Saturday. The ringleader was mulcted in the sum of \$15, the remainder contributing \$2 each.

A SEIZURE of fourteen revolvers and 700 rounds of ammunition was made on Saturday night last by Detective Sergeant Terrett, on board a sampson, off the Praya Central. The person in whose possession they were found—Li Ming Fat, styling himself a "hawker," of Third Street, West Point—was placed under arrest. He was charged at the Police Court, on Monday morning, with carrying arms and ammunition without permission. He admitted the charge, and Mr. Cuminis fined him \$250, or three months' hard labour. The "stuff" was

The downfall of Chan Chu, a fitter, employed by the Water Authority, came about last Wednesday. On Thursday, he made his *début* at the Police Court. Two days ago Chan Chu paid a visit to a fish merchant—Wong Shiu Kong—at his residence, 103, Des Voeux Road Central, to buy fish. He was told that he would not have any fish until he had paid for the water supply off, he threatened—. The fish merchant reported the matter to the Central Police Station. Detective-sergeant O'Sullivan, who was deputed to look into the affair, handed the complainant a marked banknote. The rest can be guessed—when the fitter was searched he had the police banknote on him. He was charged at the Police Court, on Thursday morning, for obtaining money by false pretence. The charge was that Chan Chu was without a valid license for his improvement.

A CORRESPONDENT writes that Sir Matthew Nathan, the new Governor of Natal, who has succeeded Sir Alfred McGowan, is winning great popularity in the Colony. He is held in great estimation by the Imperial authorities, and he has greatly pleased the colonists by breaking down the tyranny of the top-hat and frock-coat at his after-dinner receptions, by appearing in a lounge suit—a welcome concession in warm climates. Sir Matthew has visited nearly all the local institutions, including the principal schools, where he greatly pleased the children by distributing sweets to the younger members, and also to the teachers. His extensive knowledge of Natal, and his wide experience in municipal matters, gained during his tenure of office in Hongkong, is particularly helpful to the Town Council of the Colony.

JAPANESE papers say that, in consequence of the forthcoming transfer of Mr. Takahira from Rome to Washington, Baron Chinda, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, will succeed Baron Takahira in Rome; Baron Hayashi, Minister in Peking, will be made Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, while he will be succeeded at the Chinese capital by Mr. Inoue, who won a reputation as a foreign-Government spokesman as Japanese Counselor of the London Embassy; Mr. Y. Yamaka, who has been Director of the Political Bureau for eight years past, will go to London as Mr. Inoue's successor under Count Komura, Mr. T. Karachi, to The Hague Conference, will be made Resident Minister in Chile. As Mr. Inoue, now at home, is to resign, Mr. Toyozuki will probably succeed him as Ambassador at Berlin. —*The*

The Ships Passed Canal.

3rd December—*Austria, Glauernburg, China*
W. Spazio. 6th December—*Ernst Simon,*
Bakelaar, Borneo, Glenroy, Pakling, Siktang,
Bowman. 10th December—*Anchiter, Banca,*
Breuck, Flakth, Dominus, Rowan,
Colchis, Dora. 11th December—*Isabelle,*
Isabelle Marie, Kacheli, Maria, Yarra, Prinz
Ludwig, Wraycastle, Petros. 17th December—
Dardagna, Yarra. 22th December—
Acora, Antini, Janis, Nitzschow. 24th December—
Berklog, Flig, Suzy, Prinz Heinrich,
Wippen, Yarra, Blauz, Dora, Rowan.
25th December—*Isabelle.* 26th December—*Siktang,*
Chorra, Decoulon. 6th December—*Montila,*
Row. 10th December—*Hohenstaufen, Tambora,*
Maria. 10th December—*Elgwigia, Glaxie,*
Luthe, Ernst Simon. 17th December—
Isabelle, Pakling. 20th December—*Isabelle*
Maria. 24th December—*Yarra, Glaxie, Spindler,*
Yarra. 25th December—*Yarra, Glaxie.*

STEAMERS.

Aldenhorn, Br. s.s., 4,038, St. John George, 24th Dec.—Kobe 13th Dec, Gen.—G. L. & Co.
 Alecia, Ger. s.s., 5,185, J. Ernst, 23rd Dec.—Portland, Or. and Moji 18th Dec, Floor.—P. & A. S. S. Co.
 Arcadia, Br. s.s., 3,514, A. F. Valentini, 27th Dec.—Bombay 11th Dec. and Singapore 22nd, Mails and Gen.—P. & O. S. N. Co.
 Belcheron, Br. s.s., 5,727, 21. Bartlett, 26th Dec.—Manila 13th Dec, Gen.—B. & S.
 Benvorlich, Br. s.s., 2,235, McIntosh, 27th Dec.—Singapore 18th Dec, Gen.—G. L. & Co.
 Camarvonshire, Br. s.s., 2,710, Jackson, 25th Dec.—Singapore 15th Dec, Gen.—Sh. T. & Co.
 Charleston, Br. s.s., 3,599, W. G. Thomas, 27th Dec.—Barry 31st Nov, Coal.—Naval Stores Office.
 Cheong Shing, Br. s.s., 1,356, F. Wheeler, 20th Dec.—Canton 25th Dec, Gen.—J. M. & Co.
 C. Ferd. Laiting, Ger. s.s., 5,875, A. Wagner, 26th Dec.—Hamburg 31st Nov, and Singapore 17th Dec, Gen.—H. A. L.
 Childar, Nor. s.s., 1,102, A. Augensen, 22nd Dec.—Bangkok 11th Dec, and Swatow 20th Dec.—W. M. & Co.
 Daguy, Nor. s.s., 885, O. Abrahamson, 22nd Dec.—Haiphong 18th Dec, Rice.—Asgard, Thoresen & Co.
 Delta, Br. s.s., 4,782, C. L. Daniel, 26th Dec.—Shanghai 24th Dec, Mails and Gen.—P. & O. S. N. Co.
 Derwent, Br. s.s., 1,562, J. Jenkins, 30th Dec.—Saigon 15th Dec, Gen.—Man Fat & Co.
 Devonwong, Ger. s.s., 1,023, T. V. Bruhn, 26th Dec.—Bangkok 10th Dec, and Swatow 18th Dec, Rice, Salt and Wood.—B. & S.
 D. S. Ottenbros, Ger. s.s., 2,769, H. Petersen, 20th Dec.—Amoy 18th Dec, Gen.—C. & Co.
 Empress of India, Br. s.s., 3,032, E. Beetham, A.R.N., 16th Dec.—Vancouver, (B.C.) 26th Nov., and Shanghai 13th Dec, Mails and Gen.—O. P. R. Co.
 Erzhernoy Frans Ferdinand, Aust. s.s., 3,843, C. Matcovich, 27th Dec.—Shanghai 24th Dec, Gen.—W. & Co.
 Fookking, Br. s.s., 1,987, T. A. Mitchell, 27th Dec.—Singapore 17th Dec, Gen.—J. M. & Co.
 Ganges, Br. s.s., 2,721, S. A. Page, 2nd Dec.—Barry Dock 31st Oct, Coal.—Admiralty.
 Glenesk, Br. s.s., 2,274, J. Rafferty, 30th Nov.—Salina Cruz 16th Nov, Ballast.—C. M. S. S. Co.
 Halching, Br. s.s., 1,267, A. E. Hodgins, 22nd Dec.—Fookchow 10th Dec, Amoy 20th Dec, and Swatow 20th Dec, D. L. & Co.
 Hillman, Fr. s.s., 377, L. Anderson, 25th Dec.—Hoibow 24th Dec, Gen.—A. R. M.
 Hercules, Nor. s.s., 2,439, Bjelck, 23rd Dec.—Tacoma and Mororan 11th Dec, Wheat.—Order.
 Holstein, Ger. s.s., 985, A. Niehbor, 11th Dec.—Swatow 10th Dec, Gen.—J. & Co.
 Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. s.s., 623, Hensen, 22nd Dec.—Pakhoi 17th Dec, and Hiblow 20th Dec.—W. & Co.
 Joshi, Maru, Jap. s.s., 702, H. S. Smith, 25th Dec.—Swatow 24th Dec, Gen.—O. S. K.
 Katharino Park, Br. s.s., 4,000, W. H. Cobby, 24th Dec.—Callao and W.C. via Yokohama and Kobe 18th Dec, Ballast.—T. K. -K.
 Khalif, Br. s.s., 3,807, C. A. Watts, 26th Dec.—New York, U.S.A., 21st Oct, Case Oil.—Order.
 Kjelid, Nor. s.s., 916, Helleso, 25th Dec.—Callao (Peru) 10th Dec, Coal.—Asgard, Thoresen & Co.
 Lightning, Br. s.s., 2,122, E. Fey, 21st Dec.—Calcutta 20th Nov, via Penang and Singapore 14th Dec, Gen.—D. S. & Co., Ld.
 Manila, Ger. s.s., 1,163, J. Minness, 24th Dec.—Melbourne and Sydney 19th Nov, Gen.—M. & Co.
 Marie, Ger. s.s., 1,169, P. E. Christum, 24th Dec.—Salina Cruz (Mexico), 16th Nov, 20th Dec, C. S. S. Co.
 Manang, Br. s.s., 1,602, F. Houghton, 17th Dec.—Sandakan 14th Dec, Timber and Gen.—J. M. & Co.
 Mercedes, Br. s.s., 3,700, J. S. McGregor, 21st Sept.—Weihaiwei 16th Sept, Ballast.—Admiralty.
 Nicomedie, Ger. s.s., 4,364, P. Wagemann, 24th Dec.—Portland, Or. 9th Nov, and Moji 19th Dec, Gen.—P. & A. S. S. Co.
 Paklat, Br. s.s., 1,018, F. Wenzel, 26th Dec.—Swatow 25th Dec, Gen.—B. & S.
 Phranang, Br. s.s., 1,202, F. Bucking, 10th Dec.—Bangkok 5th Dec, Rice.—B. & S.
 Progress, Ger. s.s., 683, H. Struve, 19th Dec.—Sandakan 14th Dec, Coal.—S. & Co.
 Pronto, Nor. s.s., 938, T. Seeborg, 14th Dec.—Haiphong 11th Dec, Rice.—Wallem & Co.
 Regnor, Nor. s.s., 1,220, H. G. Nielsen, 25th Dec.—Canton 24th Dec, Coal.—Wallem & Co.
 Shamung, Ger. s.s., 1,022, C. Gonwitsch, 25th Dec.—Bangkok 13th Dec, Rice and Gen.—B. & S.
 Shaoshing, Br. s.s., 1,307, W. McIntosh, 26th Dec.—Canton 25th Dec, Gen.—B. & S.
 Sungkian, Br. s.s., 997, G. H. Pennafather, 24th Dec.—Cebu and Amoy 22nd Dec, Hemp.—B. & S.
 Swatley, Br. s.s., 2,938, W. E. Steele, 25th Dec.—Chin-wan-tao 10th Dec, Ballast.—G. L. & Co.
 Taiyuan, Br. s.s., 1,459, L. Dawson, 27th Dec.—London 3rd Dec, and Manila 24th Dec.—B. & S.
 Tatsu Maru, Jap. s.s., 1,950, U. Kanezaya, 21st Dec.—Takau (Formosa) 19th Dec, Ballast.—Yee Hing Tai.
 Teah, Br. s.s., 1,346, L. Outerbridge, 27th Dec.—Manila 24th Dec, Gen.—B. & S.
 Ulv, Nor. s.s., 885, J. Petersen, 17th Dec.—Haiphong 14th Dec, Rice.—Asgard, Thoresen & Co.
 Woolwich, Br. s.s., 1,846, A. Stoker, 15th Nov.—Moji 8th Dec, Gen.—D. & Co. Ld.
 Yaitching, Br. s.s., 1,426, Courtney, 25th Dec.—Canton 24th Dec, Gen.—J. M. & Co.
 Zaifro, Br. s.s., 1,630, A. Fraser, 24th Dec.—Manila 24th Dec, Hemp and Sugar.—B. T. & Co.

Return Voucher

Láwhill, Br. 4-masted bark, 1,050, ———, ———,
28th Aug.—from New York, Case Oil.—
S. O. Co.

Steamers Expected

Vessels	From	Agents	Due
H'kong Maru	Mailla	T. K. K.	Dec. 30
Chiang	Singapore	M. & Co	Dec. 30
Yokohama	Macassar	M. & Co	Dec. 31
Yokohama	Japan	M. & Co	Dec. 31
Minocota	Japan	N. Y. K.	Jan. 2
Chigiu	P. Darwin	B. & S.	Jan. 2
Zieten	Colombo	M. & Co.	Jan. 3
Monteagle	Vancouver	C. P. R. Co	Jan. 4
P. Waldemar	Guaymas	M. & Co	Jan. 4
Yokohama	Japan	N. Y. K.	Jan. 4
Nomani	Asirai	V. & A. Co	Jan. 11
Perla	Tacoma	O. & O. Co	Jan. 11

SHARE QUOTATIONS

Supplied by Messrs. E. B. Kaboras & Co. Corrected to noon; later alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence," page 3.

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* These shares are entitled to half of the profits.

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